

# Town of Williamstown, Massachusetts

2012

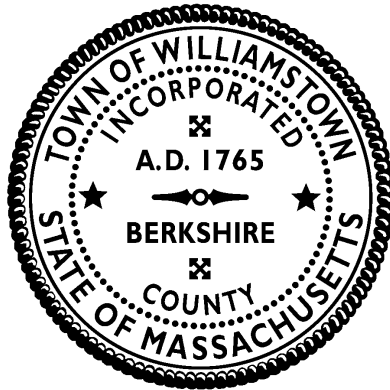
## ANNUAL REPORT



Motor, piping and wellhead at new **WELL #1**

# **Town of Williamstown Massachusetts**

## **2012 Annual Report**



Department reports are for the calendar year 2012 unless otherwise noted  
Financial report covers the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012

Prepared by Kathy Poirot  
Cover photo courtesy of the Williamstown Public Works Department  
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[www.williamstown.net](http://www.williamstown.net)

## FACTS

In 1753, the town was established as a plantation called “West Hoosuck.” In 1765, the town was incorporated and its name changed to Williamstown when Colonel Ephraim Williams’ will, stipulating the change in return for the bequest of his estate to the town to be used for the purpose of founding a free school. Fifteen students were admitted to the free school in 1793. Williams College was granted a charter by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



Elevation: 740 ft. above Sea Level

Area: 46.86 Square Miles

Population: 7806 which includes approximately 2,000 Williams College Student Body  
Registered Voters: 4338

Town Website:

[www.williamstown.net](http://www.williamstown.net)

## SCHOOLS

### Public

Williamstown Elementary School  
Mt. Greylock Regional High School  
Charles H. McCann Vocational School  
(Grades 9-12 North Adams)  
Berkshire Arts and Technologies Charter School  
(Grades 6-12 Adams)

### Private

Pine Cobble (preK-9)  
Buxton (Secondary)  
Williams College

## MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Williams College  
Williamstown Commons  
Williamstown Medical Associates  
Town of Williamstown  
Mount Greylock Regional High School District

Sweet Brook Nursing Care Centers  
Clark Art Institute  
Williamstown Savings Bank  
Williams Inn

## COVER STORY....

Several years ago, the Town lost well #1, due to a gravel pack surrounding the well screens becoming plugged with iron and manganese. The well was capped leaving one of our three wells out of service. Over the past several years the Public Works Department embarked on a project to replace the well for our water supply and fire protection. The project cost totaled \$1.12 million.

Capital appropriations of \$70,000 in fiscal year 2007, \$150,000 in fiscal year 2008 and \$892,000 in fiscal year 2009 covered the project.

In 2009 two pilot wells were drilled at the Cole Avenue well site to determine the site for replacement of well #1.

In 2010/ 2011 a permanent well was drilled by Layne Christensen Drilling Company; at which time the well drillers lost confinement of their well, resulting in an uncontrolled leak. The problem prompted the hiring of Helical Drilling Inc. to pump two tractor trailer loads of cement grout some 55 feet into the ground around the well casing using a pressure grouting technique. This in essence placed a blanket of cement around the well casing, thereby choking off the free flow of water.

In 2012 work progressed with Baystate Construction on the well replacement project. All of the electrical conduits and some plumbing had been installed in May. The new pump was delivered during the week of June 11, a new utility pole was installed the following week to accommodate a new power supply and the 38 thousand pound well house was lowered onto the site over the in place well and piping.

It took eighteen months, from drilling to completion of the building, pumps and controls. Since September 2012, the new Well 1 has been in service. Our new well runs with great efficiency, having no interruptions in service. At their October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, after a detailed update and presentation given by Public Works Director Timothy Kaiser and Water Superintendent Edward Rondeau, the Board of Selectmen toasted the completion of the project. They then took the opportunity to praise the town's water quality, which is supplied by surrounding mountains that feed the aquifer.



# CURRENT TOWN OFFICIALS

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

### SELECTMEN

Ronald Turbin	2013	Tom Costley	2013
Jane B. Allen	2014	David A. Rempell, Chair	2014
Thomas E. Sheldon	2015		

### MODERATOR

Mark Gold	2013
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### LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Peter Mehlin	2013	Nancy McIntire, Chair	2013
Rebecca Ohm	2013	Mark Maniak	2013
David Dewey	2014	Kathleen Schultze	2014
Geoffrey Heddon	2015		

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Valerie Hall	2013	Margaret McComish, Chair	2013
Daniel Caplinger	2013	John Skavlem	2014
Christopher Jones	2015		

### HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mark Reinhardt, Chair	2013 (State Appointed)		
Joan Burns	2014	Richard Hamblin	2015
Peter Mehlin	2016	David Mangun	2017
Betty Anne LaBombard, Executive Director			

### NORTHERN BERKSHIRE VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

James Gazzaniga	2013	Thomas Mahar	2015
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### MT. GREYLOCK REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Robert Ericson	2014	Carolyn Greene, Chair	2014
David Langston	2014	Christopher Dodig	2014
David Backus	2016	Sheila Hebert	2016
Colleen Taylor	2016		

### PLANNING BOARD

Richard DeMayo	2013	Patrick Dunlavey	2014
Ann McCallum, Chair	2015	Elizabeth McGowan	2015
Chris Winters	2017	Susan Schneski, Associate	2013

## **APPOINTED BY THE MODERATOR**

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Elizabeth Goodman	2013	Andrew Hogeland	2013
K. Elaine Neely	2013	Doris Karampatosos	2014
Suzanne Dewey	2014	Dan Gendron	2014
Charles Fox, Chair	2015	Paula Consolini	2015
Michael Sussman	2015		

## **APPOINTED BY THE SELECTMEN**

### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE**

Charles Bonenti	2013	Cheryl Shanks	2013
Cathy Yamamoto, Chair	2013	Leigh Short	2013
Van Ellet	2013	Bilal Ansari	2013

### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST BOARD**

Thomas E. Sheldon (Selectman)	2013	Richard DeMayo	2013
Cathy Yamamoto (Afford Housing)	2014	Fred Puddester	2014
Stanley Parese, Chair	2014		

### **AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**

Andrew Bernardy	2014	Lisa DeMayo	2014
Beth Phelps, Chair	2015	Kim Wells	2015
Richard Haley	2015	Christopher Sabot, Alt.	2015
Sarah Gardner, Alt.	2015		
Leslie Reed Evans, Alt.	2015		

### **CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Mary Kavanaugh	2014	Vacancy	2015
Vacancy	2016		

### **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

#### **Town Resident**

Jeffrey Thomas	2014
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### **Other Representatives Designated by their Committees:**

Philip McKnight (Conservation Commission), Chair	
Linda Conway (Historical Commission)	Chris Winters (Planning Board)
Dan Gendron (Finance Committee)	Jane Allen (Parks Commissioner)
Peter Fohlin (Town Manager)	Mark Reinhardt (Housing Authority)

**CONSTABLES**

Andrew Bernardy	2014	Paul Yarter	2015
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**CULTURAL COUNCIL of NORTHERN BERKSHIRE**

Judith Ensign	2014	Jane Hudson	2015
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**FENCE VIEWERS**

Marilyn Kirby	2013	Cheryl Shanks	2013
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**HOOSAC WATER QUALITY DISTRICT**

Charles Schlesinger	2016	K. Elaine Neely	2016
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**MOBILE HOME RENT CONTROL BOARD**

Jack Nogueira, Chair	2013	John Luczynski	2013
David Levine	2014	Cheryl Shanks	2014

**MT. GREYLOCK ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Cosmo Catalano, State Appointed	Scott Lewis	2013
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**MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Robert Kavanaugh	2013	Cherl Yarter	2014
Jeanne DiLisio	2014	Kris Kirby	2014

**REGISTRARS OF VOTERS**

Mary C. Kennedy (D)	Town Clerk	Kurt Gabel (R)	2015
Mark Windover (D)	2014	Robert A. Jones (R)	2016

**SIGN COMMISSION**

Stuart Armet	2013	Gregory Hitchcock	2014
Mary Beebee	2015	Anne Singleton	2016
Tim Hamilton, Chair	2017		

**NORTHERN BERKSHIRE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

Tim Kaiser	2014
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**BERKSHIRE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

**Brian O'Grady**      **2014**      *(appointed by the Board of Selectmen Chair)*

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

David Levine	2013	John Holden	2014
Leigh Short	2015	Ryan Neathawk	2016
Andrew Hoar, Chair	2017	Lawrence Wright, Assoc.	2013
Hugh Daley, Assoc.	2014	David Ranzer, Assoc.	2017

# APPOINTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER

## 1753 HOUSE COMMITTEE

Henry W. Art	Andrus Burr	David Loomis
Richard Babcock	Henry N. Flynt, Jr.	Lauren Stevens

## ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER AND INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS

Jacqueline Lemieux

## BOARD OF ASSESSORS

David Westall	William Barkin, Chair
Thomas Elder	

## BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Pat Dunlavy, Appointed by Planning Board	2013
Roger Bolton, Alternate	2013

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Thomas Van Ellet	2013	Philip McKnight	2014
Richard Schlesinger	2014	Harold Brotzman	2014
Sarah Gardner	2015	Hank Art, Chair	2015
Thomas Ennis	2015		

## COUNCIL ON AGING

Brian T. O'Grady, Director			
Franz Burnet-Gocht	2013	Pamela Burger, Chair	2013
Anne Jones	2013	Clara Winslow	2014
Patricia Picard	2014	Judy Bombardier	2014
Eugenia Smith	2015	Peter Mehlin	2015
Robin Lenz	2015		

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Peter L. Fohlin, Director

## FOREST WARDEN

Richard Daniels

## FORESTRY/ PEST CONTROL SUPERINTENDENT/TREE WARDEN

Robert E. McCarthy, Jr.

## HEALTH INSPECTOR

Jeffrey C. Kennedy

## BOARD OF HEALTH

Ruth Harrison	2013	Erwin Stuebner, MD	2014
Marcia Tessier	2014	Ronald Stant, Chair	2015
James Parkinson, MD	2015		



## **HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Barbara McLucas	2013
William Barkin, Chair	2014
K. Scott Wong	2015

Linda Conway	2014
Cheryl Shanks	2015

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Kyle Johnson, Chief  
Paul Thompson, Sergeant

Scott McGowan, Sergeant  
David Lemieux, Sergeant

## **POLICE OFFICERS**

John J. McConnell, Jr.  
Shuan William  
Tania Hernandez  
Craig Eichhammer

Preston Kelly  
Scott Skorupski  
Michael Ziemba  
Kevin Garner

## **SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER**

David Sherman

Kyle Jolin

## **POLICE DISPATCHERS**

Bill Jennings  
Elizabeth Haight  
David Sherman  
Kyle Jolin

Paul Oleskiewicz  
Scott Sherman  
Wayne Buckley  
Collin Shepley

## **SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS**

Patricia Fix  
Rosella Cote

William Cote

# REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS

## 1753 HOUSE COMMITTEE

Henry Flynt

Idle and seemingly abandoned for most of the year, the 1753 House on Field Park showed real signs of life in early autumn. Expert mason Bart VanLuling began the critical rebuilding of the badly cracked chimney. This work occurred under a Town contract financed by the Community Preservation Act Committee, chaired by Philip McKnight.



On November 14 in the presence of several town officials, Town Manager Peter Fohlin lit the first fire in the handsome new fireplace. Other than replacing the rotted threshold at the front door, no repairs were needed beside the new chimney. A thirty-nine year old tradition could again be part of Williamstown's Christmas season. On the evening of December 22<sup>nd</sup> carol singing rang out again from the '53 House for the first time in two years. This time, led by Deb Burns, filling in for event-founder Gail Burns, the 30-plus carolers warmed up by the vigorous fire in the rebuilt fireplace and sipped wassail donated by the Williams Inn.

*Mason Bart VanLuling works on the repairs at the 1753 House.*

As in years past, the sleeping loft was filled with fresh cut fragrant pine boughs donated by Summit Farm. The 1753 House Committee is looking forward to the House's renewed use by weekend visitors, school groups and curious town dwellers. The Committee welcomes inquiries and requests from those who may want to utilize the property in 2013. Committee members, all co-chairman, include: Henry Art, Richard Babcock, Andrus Burr, Henry Flynt, David Loomis, Lauren

ANNUAL REPORT OF BUDGETS AND EXPENDITURES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING;  
JUNE 30, 2012

Town Accountant  
Annual Report of Budgets and Expenditures  
For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012

Account	Original Budget	Revised Budget	FY11 Encumber	Receipts	Total Available	Expended	FY12 Encumber	Balance
<b>Amendments - General</b>								
Selection	6,707.00	6,707.00	0.00	0.00	6,707.00	4,779.60	0.00	1,927.40
Town Manager	219,956.00	214,656.00	0.00	0.00	214,656.00	212,752.50	0.00	1,903.50
Insurance	102,350.00	96,447.00	0.00	0.00	96,447.00	81,345.54	0.00	15,101.46
Finance Committee	758.00	758.00	0.00	0.00	758.00	173.00	0.00	585.00
Reserve Fund	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00
Town Accountant	223,849.00	213,103.00	0.00	0.00	213,103.00	195,042.10	0.00	18,060.90
Assessor	134,557.00	136,381.00	0.00	0.00	136,381.00	130,181.12	6,000.00	199.88
Treasurer-Collector	161,124.00	168,221.00	0.00	0.00	168,221.00	157,459.16	0.00	10,761.84
Town Counsel	20,000.00	40,300.00	0.00	0.00	40,300.00	40,239.58	0.00	60.42
Management Information Systems	51,375.00	59,103.00	15,516.05	0.00	74,619.05	63,252.74	10,995.68	370.63
Town Clerk	79,287.00	79,287.00	0.00	0.00	79,287.00	76,253.87	0.00	3,033.13
Board of Registrars	18,328.00	18,328.00	0.00	0.00	18,328.00	15,484.14	0.00	2,843.86
Conservation Commission	2,904.00	2,904.00	0.00	0.00	2,904.00	2,185.56	0.00	718.44
Planning Board	2,185.00	2,185.00	0.00	0.00	2,185.00	849.54	0.00	1,335.46
Zoning Board	3,900.00	3,900.00	0.00	0.00	3,900.00	2,219.91	0.00	1,680.09
Historical Commission	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Chamber of Commerce	33,492.00	33,492.00	0.00	0.00	33,492.00	33,492.00	0.00	0.00
Facilities Management	192,897.00	192,897.00	9,320.00	0.00	202,217.00	180,980.42	0.00	21,236.58
Police Department	1,066,701.00	1,096,026.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,097,026.00	1,087,887.19	0.00	9,138.81
Police Station Design Development			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dispatch Services	205,530.00	176,205.00	18,000.00	0.00	194,205.00	175,719.54	18,000.00	485.46
Building Inspector	280,497.00	280,497.00	29.00	0.00	280,526.00	279,378.71	0.00	1,147.29
Scales of Weights & Measures	3,436.00	3,436.00	0.00	0.00	3,436.00	2,490.79	0.00	945.21
Emergency Management	1,885.00	1,885.00	0.00	0.00	1,885.00	1,859.91	0.00	25.09
Animal Control Officer	27,612.00	19,035.00	0.00	0.00	19,035.00	18,433.67	0.00	601.33
Forest Warden	6,025.00	6,025.00	0.00	0.00	6,025.00	5,978.55	0.00	46.45
Director of Public Works	152,073.00	152,073.00	0.00	0.00	152,073.00	131,044.76	10,000.00	11,028.24
DWP Facility Photovoltaic System			12,106.49	0.00	12,106.49	0.00	12,106.49	0.00

Highway Department	1,158,330.00	1,158,330.00	344,860.09	0.00	1,503,190.09	1,245,965.67	196,339.20	60,885.22
Road and Culvert Repairs			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Latham Street Culvert			211,152.55	0.00	211,152.55	3,598.60	207,553.95	0.00
Sidewalk & Curb Replacement - North & Main			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Water Street Sidewalk Replacement			88,596.00	0.00	88,596.00	0.00	88,596.00	0.00
Adams Road Resurfacing			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sidewalk Repair - Spring Street			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Construction - No. Hoosac Road			11,735.00	0.00	282,983.00	52,289.00	236,725.20	(6,031.20)
Replace 2000 Mid Dump Truck	271,248.00	271,248.00	0.00	0.00	145,000.00	138,968.00	0.00	6,032.00
Replace 1998 Trunkless Sidewalk Plow	145,000.00	145,000.00	0.00	0.00	62,000.00	62,000.00	0.00	0.00
Replace 2003 Ford Dump Truck	62,000.00	62,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Replace 1986 3-ton Roller			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Saw and Ice Control	163,308.00	163,308.00	0.00	0.00	163,308.00	143,168.39	0.00	20,139.61
Parks and Cemetery	238,646.00	238,646.00	24,144.65	0.00	282,790.65	234,468.61	30,254.41	18,067.63
Replace 2002 Chevrolet 4x4 Pick up			28,000.00	0.00	28,000.00	21,439.00	6,561.00	0.00
Cemetery Roads Repair			40,074.39	0.00	40,074.39	38,873.18	1,199.21	0.00
Sherman Burial Chapel	6,290.00	6,290.00	0.00	0.00	6,290.00	2,778.28	0.00	3,511.72
Forestry Department	41,859.00	41,859.00	10,450.00	0.00	52,309.00	46,037.20	6,271.80	0.00
Health Department	80,916.00	89,493.00	0.00	0.00	89,493.00	89,834.10	0.00	(41.10)
Council on Aging	231,528.00	231,528.00	6,203.00	0.00	237,731.00	213,907.96	6,203.00	17,620.04
Veterans Benefits	47,518.00	82,518.00	20,000.00	0.00	102,518.00	77,178.30	16,808.00	8,531.70
Library	482,373.00	482,373.00	0.00	0.00	482,373.00	481,441.52	0.00	931.48
Recreation Commission	11,178.00	11,178.00	0.00	0.00	11,178.00	9,794.58	0.00	1,383.42
Youth Center	65,648.00	65,648.00	0.00	0.00	65,648.00	65,648.00	0.00	0.00
Veterans Graves and Holidays	3,090.00	3,090.00	0.00	0.00	3,090.00	1,101.96	0.00	1,988.04
General Debt Service	487,514.00	487,514.00	0.00	0.00	487,514.00	481,303.74	0.00	6,210.26
Employees Benefits	983,601.00	983,601.00	121,829.00	0.00	1,105,430.00	946,719.24	158,579.72	131.04
Transfers to other Funds	25,500.00	25,500.00	0.00	0.00	25,500.00	25,500.00	0.00	0.00
Local Public Schools	5,261,544.00	5,261,544.00	479,646.72	0.00	5,741,190.72	5,521,392.84	219,797.88	0.00
MT Greylock Regional School	4,600,521.00	4,600,521.00	0.00	0.00	4,600,521.00	4,600,521.00	0.00	0.00
Northern Berk Vocational School	366,466.00	366,466.00	0.00	0.00	366,466.00	351,197.00	0.00	15,269.00
Total Appropriated - General	17,802,006.0	17,802,006.0	1,442,662.9	0.00	19,244,668.9	17,754,612.0	1,231,991.5	258,065.33
Appropriations - Enterprise								
Transfer Station	207,010.00	207,010.00	0.00	0.00	207,010.00	165,508.55	3,354.12	38,147.33
Sewer Department	333,981.00	333,981.00	44,877.65	0.00	378,858.65	421,310.92	64,810.77	(107,263.04)

<b>Pump Station Repairs</b>	45,000.00	45,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	65,000.00	0.00	65,000.00	0.00
Replace 2002 Utility Van	14,000.00	14,000.00	0.00	0.00	14,000.00	11,710.00	500.00	1,790.00
Sewer Debt Service	142,094.00	142,094.00	0.00	0.00	142,094.00	117,093.86	0.00	25,000.14
Water Meter Replacements	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	0.00
Damaged Property Reimbursements	0.00	0.00	317.88	0.00	317.88	0.00	317.88	0.00
Rate Relief Grant	0.00	0.00	35,846.00	0.00	35,846.00	0.00	35,846.00	0.00
Ritter Sewer Line Grant	0.00	0.00	1,412.10	0.00	1,412.10	0.00	1,412.10	0.00
Green River Stabilization Grant	0.00	0.00	15,992.82	0.00	15,992.82	0.00	15,992.82	0.00
Transfers to General Fund	82,219.00	82,219.00	0.00	0.00	82,219.00	82,219.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers to Reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hooesee Water Quality District	610,759.00	610,759.00	0.00	0.00	610,759.00	610,759.00	0.00	0.00
Water Department	602,076.00	602,076.00	44,175.11	0.00	646,251.11	707,110.91	80,762.74	(141,622.54)
SCADA System Update	0.00	0.00	67,573.74	0.00	67,573.74	0.00	67,573.74	0.00
Well 1 Rehabilitation	0.00	0.00	74,145.70	0.00	74,145.70	74,145.70	0.00	(0.00)
Main Street Water Main Construction	0.00	0.00	121,427.55	0.00	121,427.55	33,652.65	87,774.90	0.00
Water Meter Replacements	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	0.00
Water Debt Service	341,575.00	341,575.00	0.00	0.00	341,575.00	316,574.58	0.00	25,000.42
Damaged Property Reimbursements	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Replace 2002 Utility Van	14,000.00	14,000.00	0.00	0.00	14,000.00	11,925.00	0.00	2,075.00
Transfers to Reserves	4,425.00	4,425.00	0.00	0.00	4,425.00	0.00	4,425.00	0.00
Transfers to General Fund	117,081.00	117,081.00	0.00	0.00	117,081.00	117,081.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Appropriated - General</b>	<b>2,594,220.00</b>	<b>2,594,220.00</b>	<b>425,768.55</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,019,988.55</b>	<b>2,749,091.17</b>	<b>423,345.07</b>	<b>(152,447.69)</b>
<b>Tax Rate Assessments</b>								
State Assessments	43,314.00	43,314.00	0.00	0.00	43,314.00	27,710.00	0.00	15,604.00
County Assessments	23,826.00	23,826.00	0.00	0.00	23,826.00	23,826.00	0.00	0.00
Other Assessments	193,309.00	193,309.00	0.00	0.00	193,309.00	5,356.42	0.00	187,952.58
<b>Total Tax Rate Assessments</b>	<b>260,449.00</b>	<b>260,449.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>260,449.00</b>	<b>56,892.42</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>203,556.58</b>
<b>Borrowed Funds</b>								
Cemetery Building	0.00	0.00	1,778.55	0.00	1,778.55	0.00	1,778.55	0.00
Inflow and Infiltration	0.00	0.00	239,111.31	0.00	239,111.31	0.00	239,111.31	0.00
Well #1 Replacement	0.00	0.00	480,739.00	0.00	480,739.00	362,198.25	118,540.75	0.00
Phase II and Cole Field Landfill Closure	0.00	0.00	78,495.67	0.00	78,495.67	0.00	78,495.67	0.00
<b>Total Borrowed Funds</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>800,124.53</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>800,124.53</b>	<b>362,198.25</b>	<b>437,926.28</b>	<b>0.00</b>

<b>Special Revenue Funds</b>									
School Lunch Revolving Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Highway Flood Control - Green River	0.00	0.00	474.60	474.60	0.00	0.00	474.60	0.00	0.00
Highway - Cole Ave Bridge	0.00	0.00	517.74	517.74	0.00	0.00	517.74	0.00	0.00
Highway - Linear Park Bridge	0.00	0.00	4,044.12	4,044.12	0.00	0.00	4,044.12	0.00	0.00
Highway - Synchroite Substation Grant	0.00	0.00	5,243.80	5,243.80	0.00	0.00	5,243.80	0.00	0.00
Highway - Chapter 90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(17,576.30)	0.00	0.00
Highway - Roaring Brook Grant	0.00	0.00	6,575.96	6,575.96	0.00	0.00	6,575.96	0.00	0.00
School - SPED Professional Development	0.00	0.00	4,705.00	4,705.00	0.00	0.00	4,705.00	0.00	0.00
School - Title II - Math & Science	0.00	0.00	24,947.00	15,236.89	0.00	0.00	15,236.89	(9,710.11)	0.00
School - Early Literacy Gap	0.00	0.00	5,625.00	2,737.22	0.00	0.00	2,737.22	(2,887.78)	0.00
School - Quality Kindergarten Grant	0.00	0.00	28,130.00	28,130.00	0.00	0.00	28,130.00	0.00	0.00
School - Circuit Breaker	0.00	0.00	127,071.40	63,198.00	0.00	0.00	63,198.00	64,284.44	0.00
School - School Choice	0.00	0.00	449,687.44	179,076.00	0.00	0.00	179,076.00	301,965.72	0.00
School - Early Childhood - WEE	0.00	0.00	7,736.35	14,515.75	0.00	0.00	14,515.75	9,342.20	0.00
School - ARRA Title I	0.00	0.00	8,542.00	590.00	0.00	0.00	590.00	500.00	0.00
School - Title I	0.00	0.00	68,737.00	40,323.00	0.00	0.00	40,323.00	38,954.04	0.00
School - P.L. 94-142	0.00	0.00	131,570.00	106,343.79	0.00	0.00	106,343.79	106,343.57	0.00
School - ARRA P.L. 94-142	0.00	0.00	59,959.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	(0.00)
School - ARRA Early Childhood SPED	0.00	0.00	1,471.50	1,978.50	0.00	0.00	1,978.50	0.00	0.00
School - ARRA Education Jobs Grant	0.00	0.00	20,123.00	20,123.00	0.00	0.00	20,123.00	0.00	0.00
School - Race to the Top	0.00	0.00	9,541.00	9,541.00	0.00	0.00	9,541.00	3,830.00	0.00
CDBG Housing - Stein Griffin	0.00	0.00	15,650.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Community Preservation Act Fund	0.00	0.00	417,161.03	269,321.68	0.00	0.00	269,321.68	15,650.40	0.00
Selectman - Cable Technology Fund	0.00	0.00	5,874.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Selectman - COOL Grant	0.00	0.00	5,874.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,874.71	0.00
Town Clerk - Polling Room Renovation	0.00	0.00	267.77	387.00	0.00	0.00	387.00	0.00	0.00
CostCon - Wetlands Fees	0.00	0.00	24,985.88	817.50	0.00	0.00	817.50	0.00	0.00
CostCon - Stone Hill Stevedoring Grant	0.00	0.00	2,805.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,803.38	0.00
Econ Develop - FmHA Excess Park	0.00	0.00	1,617.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Econ Develop - Bike Trail Gift	0.00	0.00	5,416.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Econ Develop - Canoe Access Facility Grant	0.00	0.00	5,400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pub Property - LRS Oil Tank Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pub Property - Damaged Property	0.00	0.00	12,703.56	12,703.56	0.00	0.00	12,703.56	0.00	0.00
Pub Property - Sale of Property	0.00	0.00	235,580.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pub Property - Green Community Grant	0.00	0.00	71,000.00	71,000.00	0.00	0.00	71,000.00	0.00	0.00
Pub Property - Irene - Little Red	0.00	0.00	776.02	776.02	0.00	0.00	776.02	0.00	0.00

Police - Support Fund	0.00	20,349.44	18,028.00	38,377.44	13,744.38	24,632.86	0.00
Police - Drug Task Force	0.00	13,893.61	6,403.54	20,397.15	4,694.76	15,702.39	0.00
Police - Forensic Funds	0.00	3,500.88	2,816.38	6,317.26	0.00	6,317.26	0.00
Police - Walkman Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Police - Detainee Care Gift	0.00	714.54	0.00	714.54	0.00	714.54	0.00
Police - School Resource Officer Gift	0.00	8,575.82	0.00	8,575.82	0.00	8,575.82	0.00
Police - Community Policing Grant	0.00	(0.00)	0.00	(0.00)	0.00	(0.00)	0.00
Police - Bullet Proof Vest Grant	0.00	3,084.50	0.00	3,084.50	0.00	3,084.50	0.00
Police - COPS Fast Grant	0.00	14,026.79	0.00	14,026.79	0.00	14,026.79	0.00
Police - Public Safety & Equipment Grant	0.00	3,116.99	0.00	3,116.99	0.00	3,116.99	0.00
Police - Damaged Property	0.00	1,770.44	0.00	1,770.44	0.00	1,770.44	0.00
Police - K9 Gifts	0.00	10,804.71	500.00	11,304.71	145.00	11,159.71	0.00
Police - E911 Training Grant	0.00	7,621.47	4,335.00	12,156.47	15,913.45	(3,756.98)	0.00
Police - E911 Communications Grant	0.00	0.00	359.91	359.91	25,660.73	(25,300.82)	0.00
Police - Console Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Police - REACH Triad Grant	0.00	2,463.34	0.00	2,463.34	2,318.80	144.54	0.00
Police - Public Health Incentive Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Police - Highway Safety Grant	0.00	9,537.65	1,532.32	11,069.97	749.49	10,320.48	0.00
Police - COPS MORE Grant	0.00	4,469.97	0.00	4,469.97	360.01	4,109.96	0.00
Police - Systems Improvement Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Police - Underage Alcohol Enforcement	0.00	0.00	3,876.82	3,876.82	3,876.82	0.00	0.00
Police - Inmate Off Duty	0.00	0.00	26,226.68	26,226.68	26,226.68	0.00	0.00
Police - Inmate OT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,802.51	(6,802.51)	0.00
Forest Warden - Assist Firefighters	0.00	0.00	13,995.00	13,995.00	14,250.00	(255.00)	0.00
DIS - Damaged Property	0.00	458.17	0.00	458.17	0.00	458.17	0.00
Civil Defense - Emergency Management Grant	0.00	10,188.74	3,500.00	13,688.74	7,685.48	6,003.26	0.00
Civil Defense - Emergency Preparedness	0.00	3,000.00	200.00	3,200.00	295.48	2,904.52	0.00
Animal Control - Operations Gift	0.00	114.13	0.00	114.13	0.00	114.13	0.00
DPW - Photovoltaic Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
DPW - Clark Sidewalk Gift	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
DPW - Damaged Prep	0.00	2,934.56	0.00	2,934.56	0.00	2,934.56	0.00
DPW - Inmate - Lucie Road Headwall	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,254.36	(5,254.36)	0.00
DPW - Inmate - Oblong Road	0.00	0.00	22,426.49	22,426.49	22,426.49	0.00	0.00
DPW - Inmate - Roaring Brook Road	0.00	0.00	18,248.40	18,248.40	18,248.41	(0.01)	0.00
DPW - Inmate - Berlin Mtn Road	0.00	0.00	13,193.10	13,193.10	13,193.11	(0.01)	0.00
DPW - Inmate - Protective Measures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,046.59	(20,046.59)	0.00
DPW - Fed Snow & Ice	0.00	0.00	53,208.02	53,208.02	19,363.91	33,844.11	0.00
DPW - Inmate - Wall Fence	0.00	0.00	1,100.51	1,100.51	1,100.51	0.00	0.00
Parks - Litchfield Beautification Gift	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00



Parks - Damaged Prop	0.00	2,141.14	0.00	2,141.14	0.00	2,141.14	0.00
Parks - FEMA MLP Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Parks - Sherman Chapel Gifts	0.00	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00
Forestry - Gift	0.00	1,689.50	0.00	1,689.50	0.00	1,689.50	0.00
Forestry - Damaged Prop	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00
COA - Activity Fund	0.00	6,307.77	5,667.00	11,974.77	5,402.63	6,572.14	0.00
COA - Formula Grant	0.00	499.86	12,720.99	13,220.85	13,148.98	71.87	0.00
COA - Damaged Property Reimbursement	0.00	97.20	0.00	97.20	0.00	97.20	0.00
COA - CFR Grant	0.00	25.00	500.00	525.00	100.00	425.00	0.00
COA - Public Health Incentive Grant	0.00	265.80	0.00	265.80	225.00	40.80	0.00
COA - Incentive Grant	0.00	20.90	0.00	20.90	0.00	20.90	0.00
COA - Senior Comm. Nutrition Assoc	0.00	0.00	525.00	525.00	525.00	0.00	0.00
Lib - Museum Pass Gift	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	905.00	9,095.00	0.00
Lib - Gifts for Books	0.00	974.07	4,304.61	5,278.68	0.00	5,278.68	0.00
Lib - Damaged Prop	0.00	3,237.69	599.00	3,836.69	0.00	3,836.69	0.00
Lib - LK/MEG Grant	0.00	0.00	10,896.22	10,896.22	10,896.22	0.00	0.00
Lib - Operations Gift	0.00	1,459.30	22,200.00	23,659.30	18,918.66	4,740.64	0.00
Lib - Design Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Recreation - Revolving Acct	0.00	3,600.39	0.00	3,600.39	0.00	3,600.39	0.00
Recreation - Skateboard Park Gift	0.00	436.59	0.00	436.59	0.00	436.59	0.00
Benefits - BHG Health Coordinator	0.00	2,107.65	2,068.00	4,175.65	1,904.75	2,270.90	0.00
School - Field Trips	0.00	1,436.92	1,650.96	3,087.88	715.50	2,372.38	0.00
School - ABRA Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
School - 5th Grade Fund	0.00	701.88	175.00	876.88	386.50	490.38	0.00
School - Outdoor Classroom Gifts	0.00	1,905.64	749.00	2,654.64	2,138.10	516.54	0.00
School - Computer Tech Gifts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
School - Adventures in Learning Gifts	0.00	8,323.47	3,589.24	11,912.71	4,155.48	7,757.23	0.00
School - Sunrise Spanish	0.00	3,838.28	420.00	4,258.28	4,258.73	(0.45)	0.00
School - Library Books	0.00	19,492.27	1,267.71	20,759.98	0.00	20,759.98	0.00
School - PTO Educ Materials	0.00	17,298.95	3,206.75	20,505.70	2,965.47	17,540.23	0.00
School - Math Institute	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
School - Tender Salary Gift	0.00	29,680.78	5,178.60	34,859.38	1,690.34	33,169.04	0.00
School - Music Gift	0.00	1,959.97	5,304.76	7,264.73	4,512.27	2,752.46	0.00
School - Staff Development	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
School - After School WSH Program	0.00	1,579.37	0.00	1,579.37	0.00	1,579.37	0.00
School - 6th Grade Fund	0.00	7,853.55	19,044.26	26,897.81	18,509.51	8,388.30	0.00
County Dog Tax Refund	0.00	19,648.00	0.00	19,648.00	0.00	19,648.00	0.00
Library - Revolving Fund	0.00	4,862.71	6,545.17	11,407.88	8,736.54	2,671.34	0.00
School - Green School Grant	0.00	18,586.72	0.00	18,586.72	0.00	18,586.72	0.00



School - Oil Tank Removal Grant	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00
School - Tuition	0.00	0.00	250,584.87	88,071.71	338,656.58	0.00	338,656.58	0.00
School - Summer School Tuition	0.00	0.00	1,227.92	0.00	1,227.92	0.00	1,227.92	0.00
School - Transportation Fees	0.00	0.00	588.87	0.00	588.87	0.00	588.87	0.00
School - Rental	0.00	0.00	34,798.11	7,408.10	42,206.21	1,432.98	40,873.23	0.00
Total Special Revenue	0.00	0.00	1,690,910.1	1,460,260.2	3,151,170.36	1,315,983.15	1,752,338.2	(0.00)
<b>Trust Funds</b>								
Margaret Lindley	0.00	0.00	2,433.85	14.25	2,448.10	0.00	2,448.10	0.00
Conservation Commission	0.00	0.00	6,273.54	574.85	6,848.39	500.00	6,348.39	0.00
Helen Renzi School	0.00	0.00	8,022.22	46.95	8,069.17	60.01	8,009.16	0.00
Recreation Revolving Fund	0.00	0.00	13,218.42	100.18	13,318.60	13,318.60	0.00	0.00
Sherman Burbank	0.00	0.00	25,221.68	10,883.01	36,104.69	16,672.00	19,432.69	0.00
Torrey Woods	0.00	0.00	2,911.95	30.64	2,942.59	2,942.59	0.00	0.00
Alma Morey	0.00	0.00	21,538.15	226.66	21,764.81	21,764.81	0.00	0.00
Perpetual Care Principal	0.00	0.00	327,271.13	9,650.00	336,921.13	336,921.13	0.00	0.00
Municipal Scholarship	0.00	0.00	37,210.42	2,894.31	40,104.73	4,000.00	36,104.73	0.00
Library Annual Fund	0.00	0.00	72,999.28	41,037.53	114,036.81	30,863.20	83,173.61	0.00
Library Carpenter Fund	0.00	0.00	9,830.98	57.49	9,888.57	9,888.57	0.00	0.00
Stabilization Fund	0.00	0.00	696,734.42	29,086.86	725,821.28	725,821.28	0.00	0.00
Perpetual Care Income	0.00	0.00	14,184.90	2,137.06	16,321.96	16,321.96	0.00	0.00
Sale of Lots	0.00	0.00	21,986.86	1,150.00	23,136.86	23,136.86	0.00	0.00
Bullock Forest	0.00	0.00	105,182.75	1,107.03	106,289.78	106,289.78	0.00	0.00
Botsford - Library Trust	0.00	0.00	83,424.70	488.68	83,913.38	83,913.38	0.00	0.00
Botsford - House of Local History Trust	0.00	0.00	42,077.87	243.55	42,321.42	42,321.42	0.00	0.00
J.E. Bascom	0.00	0.00	10,830.38	63.45	10,893.83	10,893.83	0.00	0.00
C.D. Foster	0.00	0.00	1,883.56	11.04	1,894.60	1,894.60	0.00	0.00
West Lavin Cemetery	0.00	0.00	144,706.21	7,311.52	152,017.73	8,150.00	143,867.73	0.00
Total Trust Funds	0.00	0.00	1,647,943.2	107,115.16	1,755,058.43	83,247.34	1,671,811.0	0.00
<b>Total All Expenditures</b>								
	20,656,675.0	20,656,675.0	6,007,409.4	1,567,375.4	28,231,459.8	22,322,024.4	5,517,412.1	309,174.22
	0	0	0	1	1	0	9	

## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE**

**Catherine Yamamoto, Chairman**

The Affordable Housing Committee (AHC) met 21 times during 2012 to advance our goal of increasing the number of dwelling units that are affordable to residents with incomes at or below the area median. All meetings were conducted in accordance with the Open Meeting Law, including posting of agendas 48 hours in advance. Residents in attendance were invited to speak at all meetings. In addition, members of the AHC attended numerous meetings of other town boards and commissions in order to explore ways in which the goal of providing options for our fellow residents who are under-housed could be met to the benefit of all. All proceedings were covered well by local media.

The AHC has focused on town-owned properties in the center of town (that area served by town water and sewer) and in particular, the old town garage site at 59 Water Street, the Photech site on Cole Avenue, and the 30-acre Lowry Property on Stratton Road, which was acquired by the town in 1956 for development for municipal purposes and since 1987 has been under the management of the Conservation Commission.

In December 2011 the AHC submitted an application to the CPC for \$107,500 of CPA funds to be used for technical services to advance the creation of Affordable Housing. The request was later amended to include \$600,000 for funds to acquire and develop property in Williamstown for housing. Without more specific plans for the use of the funds, the CPC hesitated to grant that portion of the request. In response, the AHC undertook extensive study of affordable housing trusts in other municipalities in the Commonwealth and on March 26, 2012 presented to the Selectmen a draft warrant article that would establish the Williamstown Affordable Housing Trust. The article and initial funding of \$200,000 of CPA funds for the Trust were approved by voice vote at Town Meeting; the AHC was awarded the \$107,500 for technical services. At December 31, 2012, \$87,300 of the AHC's award remained uncommitted.

The AHC funded an analysis of residual contamination at 59 Water Street. Final results are pending and we are encouraged that the site will be clean enough to move forward in 2013 with plans for development.

The town, using state funds, paid for further analysis of the contamination at Photech. Clean up remains to be done there and a decision must be made about the viability of the extant building. Once these matters have been resolved, that site, too, will be ready for development.

The AHC, in conjunction with the Affordable Housing Trust, engaged John Ryan of Development Cycles to conduct a housing needs assessment. Because the economic landscape has changed dramatically in the last ten years, because new demographic data is available following the 2010 census, and because developers require more up-to-date information, a current assessment is required. The findings will guide us as we consider how best to address the long-term housing needs of our community. Mr. Ryan, who compiled the housing component of the Town's 2002 Master Plan, will finalize his study by March 31, 2013.

In November 2012, Town Manager Fohlin and the Board of Selectmen announced that the town had applied for Hazard Mitigation Funds from FEMA. The purpose of the grant is to remove the threat of future loss of homes by relocating the residents who still live in The Spruces and are at risk of flooding. A portion of the grant will be available to develop housing to which Spruces residents may choose to move. A portion of the Lowry Property on Stratton Road is being considered by the Selectmen as a potential site for the creation of a small village of homes that would replicate, as best as possible, the type of supportive community that existed at The Spruces. Together with the Affordable Housing Trust, the AHC commissioned a conceptual site study of the Lowry Property. The study yielded an initial plan for mixed use of the property, with potential for 40 small house lots on the central third of the 30-acre site and portions remaining available for agricultural use, open space, and recreation.

Though the devastation at The Spruces is not apparent to us as we pass by on Route 2, it is very real, as is the need that existed before the flood. We, the residents of Williamstown, must devise a solution that best serves all residents of our town. To do nothing is not an option. We must look beyond the Williamstown of today and imagine what it can become for the generations ahead.

Bilal Ansari	Charles Bonenti
Kim Burnham	Van Ellet
Cheryl Shanks	Leigh Short
Catherine Yamamoto, Chair	

## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND**

**Stanley Parese, Chairman**



The 2012 Annual Town Meeting voted to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 55C and to establish a municipal affordable housing trust fund for the Town of Williamstown. The 2012 Annual Town Meeting warrant article establishing the trust, and the subsequent Declaration of Trust of the Town of

Williamstown Affordable Housing Trust Fund (the “Trust”) each state, in accordance with Section 55C, that the purpose of the Trust is: “to provide for the creation and preservation of affordable housing in the Town of Williamstown for the benefit of low and moderate income households.”

Upon the recommendation of the town’s Community Preservation Committee and approval of the 2012 Annual Town Meeting, the Trust was funded by an initial grant of \$200,000.00 from the town’s Community Preservation Act funds.

The Trust has five trustees, appointed by the Board of Selectmen for two year terms. The trustees are: Richard L. DeMayo, Stanley E. Parese, Frederick W. Puddeste, Thomas E. Sheldon (Board of Selectman) and Catharine M. Yamamoto (Williamstown Affordable Housing Committee).

The Trustees were appointed by the Selectmen in August and the first meeting of the Trust was held in September. The balance of 2012 was spent in formulating the organizational documents of the Trust, which include the Trust Declaration and an Action Plan, and in exploring opportunities to address affordable housing needs in Williamstown. The Trust committed \$5,200 for a conceptual plan of an affordable housing neighborhood on a portion of the town-owned Lowry Property, and an additional \$1,650 toward the cost (shared with the Affordable Housing Committee) of a town-wide housing needs assessment.

The task of addressing the affordable housing needs of Williamstown is extremely large.

It was generally recognized that for many, many years Williamstown suffered from an acute shortage of affordable housing. The destruction of more than 150 homes in the Spruces Mobile Home Park during Tropical Storm Irene in August of 2011 created an affordable housing crisis, from which the Town – nearly two years later - has yet to begin to recover.

## **ACTION PLAN FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST**

**Mission:** To foster, create and preserve housing in Williamstown that is affordable to people with low and moderate incomes

**Vision:** Within five years Williamstown will increase significantly its stock of housing units that are affordable to people with low and moderate incomes. Most of those homes will reflect the characteristics that appealed to the residents of The Spruces: modest size; minimal maintenance; accessible; convenient to transportation including parking for automobiles; and above all, low monthly cost.

**Goals:**

1. Work in partnership with the Affordable Housing Committee and collaborate with other local, Commonwealth and federal bodies and not-for-profit and private entities to:

- create 40 more Chapter 40B (subsidized) affordable housing units for low and moderate income households by the end of 2015.
  - create 20 additional Chapter 40B affordable housing units (for a total of 60) by the end of 2017.
  - develop 20 new owner-occupied units that are affordable to people of low and moderate incomes by the end of 2017.
  - preserve existing affordable housing.
2. Recommend policies, programs and other initiatives to expand affordable housing.
  3. Build and sustain community support for the expansion of affordable housing including support of the Community Preservation Committee for the Trust's initiatives.
  4. Assess what types of initiatives are most effective in creating affordable housing and nurture efforts to replicate them.

## AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Beth Phelps, Chairman



- April 5, 2012:
  - Elected officers for the Agricultural Commission:  
Beth Phelps, Chairman  
Andy Bernardy, Co-Chair  
Lisa DeMayo, Secretary
  - Created goals and objectives for the year:
    1. Submit letter to Town and all Committees updating our information and introducing our purpose. (Sent in May)
    2. Erect Right-to-Farm Signs.
    3. Revive the Williamstown Farmers' Market.
    4. Create a web page for Williamstown AgCom.
    5. Raise public awareness of the amount of agriculture in our town
    6. Hold a "Farmers' Dinner."
- May 10, 2012: Voted to hold our meetings the first Thursday of every month at 7pm at town hall.
- June 7, 2012: Peter Fohlin created our email address, [agcommission@williamstown.net](mailto:agcommission@williamstown.net)
- July 12, 2012: The AgCom joined the Mass. Association of Agricultural Commissions and the Mass. Farm Bureau Federation.
- August 2, 2012: Signs and Website are underway.

- September 6, 2012: Sign Commission approved the signs to read, “Welcome to Our Right-to-Farm Community,” with “Williamstown Agricultural Commission” across the bottom.
- October 4, 2012: Approval of the Charter for the Williamstown Market was unanimous. Members of the Steering Committee for the market were also appointed.
- November 8, 2012:
  - A fourth Right-to-Farm sign on North Hoosac Rd was approved.
  - Domain name for website, williamstownfarms.com, accepted.
- December 6, 2012: Farmers Market new by-laws approved
- December 12, 2012: Farmers’ Dinner was held at Sheep Hill

## **BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

**William Barkin, Chairman**

This year the Town completed a contract with Cartographic Associates of Littleton, NH to perform a comprehensive update of the assessors tax maps by a complete inventorying, indexing, and plotting of real property using aerial photographs, licensed survey plans, deeds, and land court records from the Registry of Deeds and town records.

The final results of the project showed that for the total number of real estate parcels in town, 26% or 773 increased in land size, 30% or 921 decreased in land size, and 44% or 1,324 had no change. The vast majority of corrections to property owners’ parcels was very small. The average correction in a parcel’s area was an increase of .025 acres or 1,089 square feet.

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59 specifically equates that fair cash value be the standard by which property is taxed. A comprehensive appraisal system, as well as constant monitoring of real estate market fluctuations is needed in order for the Board of Assessors to meet this statutory requirement.

Studies of real estate transactions from January 2010 through December 2011 were conducted and property assessments were adjusted to reflect full and fair cash value as of January 1, 2012. The total taxable valuation of the Town decreased 3.42% from the previous year of \$1,030,451,850 to \$995,250,355. The median assessed value of a single family home decreased 3.8% from \$259,000 to \$249,050.

The Board of Assessors maintains a property inventory of approximately 3,000 real estate properties and 121 personal property accounts. We strive for 100% accuracy in our assessments. The abatement process allows the Board to view properties that may have errors on the property record card or exhibit market aberrations and thus produce inaccurate assessments. At the beginning of each year the Board conducts field

inspections of all building permits issued in the prior calendar year to ascertain new growth.

## Williamstown Board of Assessors

Computations for Determining Fiscal 2012 Tax Rate

<i>Town Meeting Date</i>	<i>Total Appropriations Each Meeting</i>	<i>From Tax Levy</i>	<i>From Free Cash</i>	<i>From Other Available Funds</i>	<i>From Enterprise Funds</i>	<i>(Memo) Borrowing</i>
5/18/2010	20,543,657	17,577,035	0.00	25,672.00	2,940,950	0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20,543,657</b>	<b>17,577,035</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>25,672.00</b>	<b>2,940,950</b>	<b>0.00</b>

Local Expenditures.....	\$	20,543,657.00
Cherry Sheet Offsets & Other Amounts.....		756,520.68
Overlay.....		175,180.19
<b>Tax Rate Summary</b>		
1. Gross Amount to be Raised.....		21,475,357.87
2. Estimated Receipts and Available Funds.....		7,069,641.00
3. Net Amount to be Raised by Taxation.....	\$	<b>14,405,716.87</b>
4. Real Property Valuation.....	\$1,012,624,983	
5. Personal Property Valuation.....	\$	17,826,867
6. Total Property Valuation.....	<b>\$1,030,451,850</b>	
7. Tax Rate	13.98	
8. Real Property Tax.....		14,156,497.26
9. Personal Property Tax.....		249,219.60
10. Total Taxes Levied on Property.....	\$	<b>14,405,716.86</b>

Recap Abatements and Exemptions		Recap Motor Vehicle Commitments			
<b>Fiscal 2012</b>			<u>Year</u>	<u>Valuation</u>	<u>Excise</u>
Real Estate	\$ 1,650,100.00	<b>Commitments</b>	1 2012	\$18,120,300	\$453,555
Personal Property	0.00		2 2012	\$2,496,550	\$60,026
			3 2012	\$1,882,250	\$37,045
			4 & 9 2011	\$6,007,350	\$60,365
<b>Exemptions</b>			<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$28,506,450</b>	<b>\$610,991</b>
Clause 41C	\$ 5,500.00	<b>Abatements</b>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Excise</u>	
Clause 22, 22E	18,600.00		279	\$19,337	
Clause 17D	2,800.00				
Clause 37	1,750.00				
Clause 42	1,704.16				
Clause 18	900.00				
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,681,354.16</b>		<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$19,337.00</b>	

FOR A DETAILED REPORT SEE TREASURER'S SUMMARY

## CEMETERIES AND PARKS

Christopher Lemoine, Superintendent

The department operates and maintains three cemeteries in Town: Eastlawn, Southlawn and Westlawn. The Town's flagship cemetery is Eastlawn which was established around 1850. A new section for gravesites was surveyed and laid out in 2010 adding 848 gravesites. The cemetery has a total of 1,463 unsold graves, averages 35 sales annually and has a life expectancy of 41 years. Southlawn cemetery has 576 unsold graves, averages 9 sales annually and has a life expectancy of 64 years. The oldest cemetery in town is Westlawn which dates back to the 1700's has only a handful of useable gravesites left unsold. In total the Town has enough gravesites available for sale to last 43 years. Residents can purchase gravesites at a rate of \$450.00 each and can purchase as many graves equal to the amount of people living in the household at the time of purchase. Non residents need to request and obtain permission from the Board of



Selectmen for lot purchases at a rate of \$900.00 per grave and are limited to a maximum of two graves. For information call 458-8657 between 7:30am and 4:00pm Monday thru Friday.

The department is responsible for the maintenance of seven public parks in town, the Elementary School athletic fields, the grounds around the Milne Library and the Municipal Building. The Department this season dredged the holding pond out at Margaret Lindley Park due to large amounts of sediment deposited by hurricane Irene. The crew also added sand and graded the beach areas. Margaret Lindley Park is extremely popular in the summer swimming season thanks to the pond which is constantly replenished with crisp fresh water. The park is open sunrise to sunset year round and is staffed with a park ranger from mid-June to Labor Day. Another popular park in Town is Mount Hope Park which has grills for cooking and natural swimming holes in the adjacent Green River. If you are looking for playground equipment you will want to visit Linear Park accessible from Water Street, or Broadbrook Park off of White Oaks Road. All of the Parks in Town are open to the public free of any charges. If you are on Spring Street or in the area of Field Park you will notice new informational kiosks. Each has a map of the 72 miles of public hiking trails within the Town's borders and on the opposite side you will see a map of the Town's business district and a business directory with QR scan codes.

I thank the department staff for their consideration and diligence in keeping our public properties maintained, providing our patrons with clean, safe and fun places to enjoy.

## **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT COMMITTEE**

**Philip McKnight, Chairman**

The Community Preservation Act (CPA), adopted by the Town in 2002, permits Williamstown to address important community needs under the terms of the law, including:

- Acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic resources;
- Acquisition, creation, and preservation of open space;
- Creation, preservation, and support of affordable housing; and
- Acquisition of land for recreation and preservation of recreational resources.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts supplements funds that Williamstown raises directly through the CPA surcharge on real property taxes. The match was 100% for the first five years and then steadily declined as a direct result of the economic recession to its present level of 25%. As a result of last year's amendments to the CPA, there is every reason to believe that the match next year, FY14, might be substantially higher. The local Community Preservation Committee makes a recommendation to Town Meeting every year on how CPA revenues should be spent. The Committee's eight members consist of representatives from the Town's Conservation Commission, Finance Committee, Historical Commission, Housing Authority, Planning Board, Parks Commission, Town Manager, and an at-large community member.

The Committee held public information sessions and public meetings beginning in the fall in which applications were received and funding proposals were discussed. Ultimately, the following proposals were recommended for funding by Town Meeting in May 2012 and were approved:

1. An amount of \$25,000 under the terms of the CPA for historic resources purposes to be expended under the direction of the Parks and Cemetery Superintendent with the assistance of the South Williamstown Historical Commission for the preservation of historic gravestones at Southlawn Cemetery;
2. An amount of \$80,000 under the terms of the CPA for community housing purposes to fund a grant to Berkshire Housing Development Corporation for the purpose of creating community housing at 118 Church Street, also known as Proprietors Fields, and for other related purposes;
3. An amount of \$4,000 under the terms of the CPA for historic resources purposes to be expended under the direction of the Parks and Cemetery Superintendent for the preservation of the 1753 House located at Field Park;
4. An amount of \$107,500 under the terms of the CPA for community housing purposes to be expended under the direction of the Affordable Housing Committee appointed by the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of creating community housing;
5. An amount of \$200,000 under the terms of the CPA for community housing purposes to be deposited in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund established by Article 22 of the 2012 Annual Town meeting;
6. An amount of \$10,000 under the terms of the CPA for the payment of administrative expenses associated with the work of the Committee in FY 2013.
7. An amount of \$29,000 under the terms of the CPA for future open space purposes in FY 2013.

In any given year the Committee anticipates receiving more worthwhile projects for consideration than can be responsibly funded. In addition, the Committee may choose to set aside certain amounts of available funds for future projects. Because of this, and to help guide its deliberations, the Committee has established a number of project investment criteria, which applicants must address, and encourages interested parties to read about the CPA and the investment criteria on the Town's website.

# CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**Henry W. Art, Chairman**

The Conservation Commission is the citizen board responsible for the management of Town owned conservation lands and for the administration of the Massachusetts Wetlands and Rivers Protection Act. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. Site visits are often conducted prior to the public hearings so that the Commission members can better understand what is being proposed by the applicants, what specific wetland and river resources are in need of protection and how best to provide the protection.

In 2012 the Commission acted on 11 Requests for Determination of Applicability (RDA) of the Wetlands & River Protection Acts to proposed projects, rendering a judgment as to whether proposed projects fell under the jurisdiction of the Acts. We also acted on 6 Notice of Intent (NOI) applications for projects that clearly came under the jurisdiction of the Acts and placed Orders of Condition as to how the projects would be undertaken and managed to ensure the protection of wetlands resources. We issued 5 Certificates of Compliance (a record of the fulfillment of the Orders of Condition). We also issued one Enforcement Order (in response to a violation of the acts that occurred on Potter Road).



***Margaret Lindley Park***

Previous Town Meetings have placed 9 Town properties in the care and custody of the Commission: The Stone Hill Woodlot, Margaret Lindley Park, The Hunter Lot, The Deans Lot, Bloedel Park, The Pine Cobble Lot, Bridges Pond, the Lowry Lot, the Burbank Lot. The latter two properties are currently used for agriculture under special use permits. In November 2012, we granted a Special Use Permit for Kim Wells to cut hay

on the Lowry Lot until November 2015.

Current members of the Conservation Commission are Hank Art (Chair), Van Ellet (Vice Chair), Harold Brotzman, Tom Ennis, Sarah Gardner, Philip McKnight, and Richard Schlesinger. Andrew Groff serves as the Conservation Agent on behalf of the Conservation Commission and the Town of Williamstown Department of Inspection Services.

## **COUNCIL ON AGING**

**Brian T. O'Grady, Director**

In 2012, over eleven hundred sixty Williamstown seniors were involved in one program or another offered through the Williamstown Council on Aging.

This number reflects an increase in participation by over 160 people from the previous year, and it doesn't include non-seniors, (anyone under the age of 60, approximately which adds up to 100 different people). This number also does not include the plethora of routine information and referral calls from individuals of all ages. Indeed 2012 was a HUGE year for us, one that was very busy and hallmarked by numerous new efforts to provide supportive services to town seniors.

Actually, the increased numbers surprised us as we set about to analyze issues and potential trends. Some of the conclusions we drew from our analysis were:

First off, recent experiences at the Spruces opened us up to an entirely new group of folks who had previously been residents of a more self contained community. The loss of their recreational building and its function, coupled with the need for services to cope with the wave of problems following tropical storm Irene led to Spruces residents seeking assistance from the COA, and some of them kept coming for other activities.

Our transportation numbers literally popped. A report from the BRTA Administrative Assistant advised us that our monthly average travel numbers had increased from 400 to 800 plus. We knew that. Van driver, Kathy Vareschi, was reporting significant increases in local traffic. Why? Well we have noticed that there are an increasing number of elders using the services of the fabulous wound clinic at NARH and those particular medical transport numbers are way up. In addition, there have been increases in all other types of travel, particularly grocery shopping trips and transportation to medical appointments including doctors and rehabilitative services. These latter items, medical travel and grocery shopping we call "life support" and they constitute our principal priorities for van use. Quite a few older Townies gave up their cars and licenses during the last year. Friends and family only go so far. Who ya gonna call...?

### **We're out there:**

We reached out and touched everyone everywhere. COA outreach Worker Marion Quinn –Jowett and Director Brian O'Grady were very visible presences in the local community, at public meetings, on television, in new items in local media, all over literally and carrying the COA flag and information regarding the wonderful services always available at the Harper Center at 118 Church Street. It worked. The news is out. There are lots of beneficial programs offered at the Harper Center thru the Council on Aging. And we stand ready to meet new friends every day.

No annual report would be complete without a recitation of pertinent statistics regarding programming. By the way, there is a marvelous quilt hanging on the wall in the main hall depicting programs and events here at Harper, so please come here and check it out. It's the handiwork of Delores Lovegren, Gert Fields and Clara Winslow. I digress. Here's the narrative for 2012. We'll start with Marion and her Outreach work. Marion arrived at the Harper Center in July 2011 and brought many years of elder care experience with her. She has been instrumental in the participation jump during the past year. She averages 100 different contacts with Williamstown seniors monthly. Not all of them are new, obviously, but many are, and that's a good thing, especially when they become more involved. Her role isn't all just meet and greet however. A professional social worker, Marion has assisted people with all sorts of issues ranging from insurance questions to finding appropriate home care. Need help? Call us!

### **Transportation and Nutrition:**

Our big rolling billboard also known as the COA van is a primary means of transportation for many residents who have no other means of transportation. We live in a rural area with limited public means to get from one location to another. Without the van many seniors would be unable to get to medical appointments, including doctors visits, PT/OT/ and hospital based therapies as well as grocery shopping expeditions. These include a number of folks with limited mobility who are engaged in our home delivery program. And thanks to our friends at Stop and Shop once more for their sponsorship of this program!

We continue to provide some of the "standard of living" tasks which our riders have been accustomed to: library trips, hairdresser visits and luncheon stops among others-but life support is clearly becoming a heavy priority and is utilizing more of our time. As our population ages, we're guessing that we will be managing an increasing life support task list. We're now looking to develop a cadre of volunteer drivers who will be able to take on some of the less urgent tasks.

We worked with Elder Services Nutrition Program, Pat Picard being the local manager, other friends and did a little chef-ing ourselves during the year to produce 5000 senior meals. Our menu varies and always brings a smile and a full belly. Many of these feasts came in conjunction with educational or recreational programming. Northern Berkshire Healthcare, Williamstown Commons, Sweet Brook, Interim Health Care, Amedisys Health Care, The VNA and Hospice of Northern Berkshire, Hospice Care in the Berkshires, Elder Services and the Brien Center were among the organizations who provided health educational speakers on a variety of important topics.

We utilized Cultural Commission grants to bring musician John Root and actor Richard Clark in to perform for us. We teamed up with our friend Ida Patella from Berkshire Housing to bring other talented musicians into the hall for the entertainment of all. Other acts, such as the legendary Aladdins came and entertained. It was a fun year!

In addition to eating, another food topic of sorts appeared during the year. We acquired a Federal Title 3 grant and worked with the Nutritionist at North Adams Regional Hospital, Kristin Irace, to create a program allowing an actual Registered Dietitian to visit seniors in their homes to help define nutritional needs, with healthy food choices and menu design.

We continued to sponsor Brown Bag, a program of the Foodbank of Western Massachusetts which brings shelf stable food and fresh fruits and veggies in season directly from us to eligible Williamstown residents.

### **Programs; we have them:**

We're mostly an active group.

Three times weekly our exercise instructors, Karyn O'Toole and Jane Jezouit lead an ever growing group of seniors thru their paces in our exercise classes. We don't have to tell you why exercise is important do we? Then of course there are Youlin Shi's Tai Chi groups, intro class on Monday and advanced class on Thursday. Tai Chi helps to prevent falls by helping to improve balance. There are studies you can look up to find out more on this topic if you're interested.

Oh, speaking of looking up those studies, the Harper Center is equipped with wifi access, and a bank of computers, so you can look those Tai Chi studies up right here. Or correspond with distant family. Can't use a computer? No problem. Our computer guru, Elaine Keyes is happy to teach you how to navigate your way around those infernal machines. It's easier than you think. Stop by and we'll be happy to tell you about it. Through the generosity of Williams College, Harper seniors are able to utilize the College pool on a weekly basis to swim. A great form of aerobic exercise! We have a walking group which meets formally every Thursday and pounds out the miles. We'll be competitively walking in the spring and we always finish strongly in those! And, we actually won a competition in 2010 so...

We continued our successful partnership with AARP who are busy every February through April providing free assistance helping individuals. Pim Goodbody, our coordinator and his group of volunteer's complete and file well over one hundred state and federal tax returns at the Harper Center annually.

And we answer the telephone and provide tons of information and referral information. Every day, someone calls, wanting information on available services such as van rides, information on doctors, housing options, foot care services, fraud information, advocacy, bill paying, food delivery, clothing, clinics and so on. Our marvelous secretary Ann Luczynski has tallied an average of 30 information related calls daily. That's a few!

Some of our most important calls are the Telephone Reassurance Calls we entertain every morning. The idea is that we spoke with individuals who want someone to know that they are up and at 'em every morning. If we don't hear from someone, we check to make sure that they're ok. In 10 years we have literally saved 10 people who had fallen, were injured and couldn't get up. What if we hadn't been there?

Some of our calls are related to whether or not we're playing Bingo on any given day. We do and Maggie Guiden does a wonderful job arranging volunteer callers and managing that program! And while we're on the game subject, Genie Smith coordinates our Bridge group. Now, we know that there are folks out there who don't think that this type of activity is as important as, oh exercise. We disagree. It's a social event, and who doesn't need human contact? Even more importantly, it makes you focus your attention on your cards, ok, more so with Bridge than Bingo. But they are both brain exercises, no doubt. Games anyone?

We've had a long standing relationship with the Williamstown Elementary School, literally across the street, and have hosted all sorts of activities through the years. The longest running is our "reading buddies" group which dates to the old school. In the past year we've hosted various musical groups, singers and instrumentalists, artists and the entire third grade. As I write this report, our windows are adorned with snowflakes and snowmen, courtesy of the kids across the street.

**The Center had a facelift:**

Finally, we come to the Harper Center itself. In the summer and fall of 2012 the building had a major facelift. We worked with our friends from Berkshire Housing to get some very fine contractors; Vareschi Plumbing and Heating, Contractor Jonathan Duda and our electrician friend Carmen LaCasse in to do the work. They were courteous, didn't disrupt any programs; we did not lose a single program day during the process and they did a great job. We replaced the walls, the windows, the heating and electrical systems and added air conditioning. Today Harper is very comfortable to hang out in. Its warmer, will be cooler, and the best part? The process didn't cost the taxpayers a penny! A building in a very nice location has been brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and should be able to continue as a focal point for senior activity for years to come.

This report is dedicated to the memory of Ralph Herne, a wonderful volunteer at the Harper Center and former member of the COA Board of Directors; and to Nan Goodell, a lifetime human services activist and former Chair of the Board of Directors of the Williamstown COA. You are both missed.

**DAVID & JOYCE MILNE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

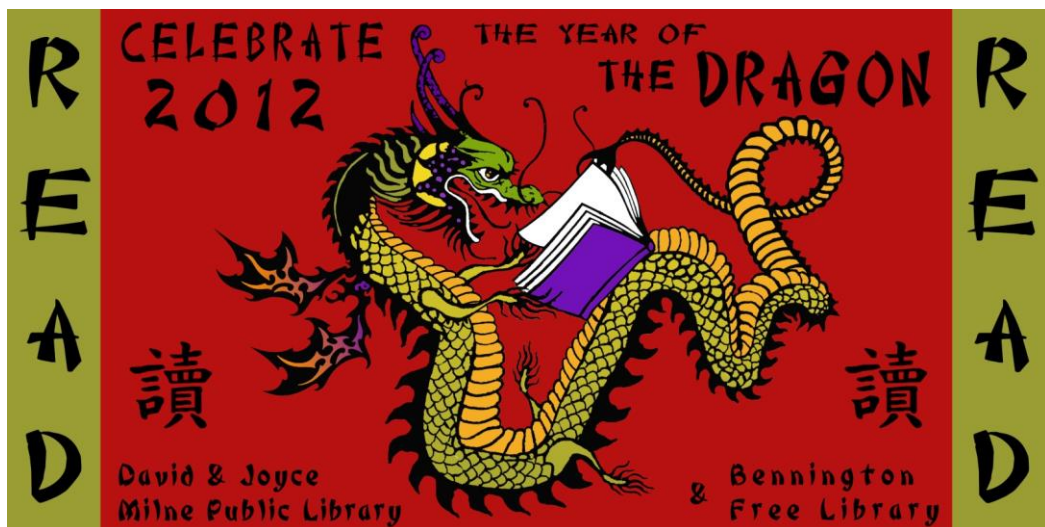
**Pat McLeod, Library Director**      **[www.milnelibrary.org](http://www.milnelibrary.org)**

<b>6,215 cardholders</b>	<b>79,000 holdings</b>
<b>31,555 interlibrary loans</b>	<b>213,000 circulations</b>

Even in this online age, more people visit their local public library every year in Massachusetts than attend Patriots, Celtics, Bruins and Red Sox games combined. This is an amazing statistical fact that points directly to the vital services that are provided by public libraries and the library in Williamstown is a full service library for all needs.

A decade ago, the talk was the Internet would be the end of libraries. While computer access, online resources and downloadable media are important, it's our staff, programs and collections that set us apart from what the Internet offers. Our staff can refine and facilitate research projects or instill the love of reading through programs and Story Times. Our objective is to find a balance between technology innovations and traditional services. Our ever growing circulation statistics and number of active patrons, show we are succeeding.

The David & Joyce Milne Library kicked off the New Year with the Year of the Dragon that celebrated the power of reading. The participants attended programs, received booklists, and learned about the Chinese Zodiac and culture in collaboration with the Bennington Free Library in Vermont.



With space constraints the library continues to review and plan future growth of the library for this community and is revisiting what can be done to repair, remodel, and expand our aging infrastructure to meet the needs of a new generation of users.

A most recent Harris Poll survey (January 2012) to adults on public library service found:

The library improves the quality of life in our community: 91%

The public library is important to my family's education: 84%

Because it provides free information regarding local, state and federal elections, the library is critical to democracy: 80%

My public library deserves more funding: 79%

Even though we are open six days a week, we are also a library without walls, accessible anytime from our newly designed website [www.milnelibrary.org](http://www.milnelibrary.org)

You can access from our Digital Café which now includes:

- E-books for the Kindle, Nook, iPad or any tablet or e-reader.
- Digital audiobooks to listen to on your smart phone, iPod or Mp3 players.
- Online language learning with over 80 languages and English as a Second Language called Transparent Language.
- Downloadable videos.
- Atomic Training courses. Learn about new technology such Skype, your iPad, Twitter. etc.
- Children's books, read-alongs, games and puzzles all online called Tumblebooks.
- Online full text journal articles and newspapers. Access to an extensive collection of useful databases.
- TeachingBooks - Thanks to a grant from the WES Endowment Fund and the Alice Shaver Foundation, this literature database "provides original, in-studio movies of authors and illustrators, and a wealth of multimedia resources on K–



12 books to support reading and library activities for all grades and content areas.” Teachers, parents and students.

All of these are available for your PC, laptop, e-reader, tablet, or smart phone.

Through a generous grant from the Alice Shaver Foundation we have 6 new wireless PC’s in the Computer Lab with Windows 7 and Ancestry.com, thanks to our Friends of the Library.

"Google can bring you back 100,000 answers, a librarian can bring you back the right one." - Neil Gaiman, author of *Sandman* and *Neverwhere*.



*Finn, our favorite visiting service dog.*

### **Friends of the Milne Public Library**

For nearly a quarter century, the Friends of the Milne has supported the needs of Williamstown’s library. Its membership includes 350-400 area households. The 14-member board and dedicated volunteers conduct fund-raising activities throughout the year. The centerpiece is the Friends’ annual sale of used books at Williamstown Elementary School, one of the largest such events in New England. In 2012 the combined sale, silent auction of special books and café raised more than \$20,000 to support the library and provided a fun opportunity for the community to come together.

Through the two-day sale in April, the year-round Book Nook in the library, sales of its cookbook, “Cooking With Friends,” and its annual membership drive, the Friends raised enough money to disperse \$25,343 to the library in 2012. That money supports the annual Summer Reading Program, furniture and equipment, staff development, and other critical library needs, including last year’s addition of Ancestry.com for patrons at the library.

The Friends also encourages literacy among the town's youth through financial support of the annual Words Are Wonderful celebration of reading. Learn more about all of the Friends' programs or find out how you can become involved by contacting 2013 President Stephen Dravis at [sdravis@verizon.net](mailto:sdravis@verizon.net) or by visiting the Friends' website at [milnelibraryfriends.org](http://milnelibraryfriends.org).

### **The Library Board of Trustees**

A Library Facility Review Committee of local friends of the library as well as the Board president and the library director have been reviewing ways of retrieving, rearranging, and updating spaces to improve library functions and services.

The fundraising for the Trustees Fund was the most successful ever, raising \$39,025 from 426 households. The Trustees Fund has supported a new and improved website, new shelving in the Media Room, the Children's Room, and the Large Print section, and additional hours for our library maintenance employee.

Current slate of the Board of Trustees:

Nancy McIntire – Chair

David Dewey – Friends Liaison

Mark Maniak

Peter Mehlin – Treasurer

Kathleen Schultze

Rebecca Ohm – Secretary

Geoffrey Hedden

### **Youth Services**

The Children's Room and YA room continue to be busy and vibrant. Both collections have been building, continuing to encompass many new offerings of books and other media, while retaining many of the classics and old favorites.

We continue to offer two pre-school story times a week, and have added a once-a-month toddler story time to accommodate younger children. We had a very successful Junior Librarians program in the fall, with around a dozen enthusiastic participants, and our children's librarian led a home schoolers book group once a month. We also added to the fun décor of the children's room with a brightly colored "Hungry Caterpillar" rug and freshly painted surrounding walls, to create a nice baby/toddler floor area.

In addition, our programming in the children's room included hosting a Chess Club, a "Duck Tape Accessories" workshop, a "Dream Big, Read" summer reading program with close to 200 participants, which included a Dream Catcher workshop, an afternoon of drumming, and displays featuring "dreamers" throughout history. We participated in the "Words Are Wonderful" program with the elementary and high school, and hosted two authors at the library, Cynthia Lord and George O'Connor. We also added a very enriching database called "Teaching Books" which includes many links, videos, author interviews, booklists and curriculum enrichment information for grades K-12. It is accessible from the library's website.

In the YA department we invited the Royal Berkshire Improv Troupe to facilitate their second theater improvisation workshop here. We also had a very successful song writing workshop, a silk-screen art workshop, a book creation workshop, and two sessions of "Making Comics" with a local graphic novel author. We continue to work with Mt. Greylock Regional High School in ordering and lending books for their required summer reading program. The YA room is filled to the brim with excellent books and media, and the hope is that in the future more space will be available for this important collection. The 2012 YA summer reading program "Own the Night," had around 35 participants,

who read and enjoyed a wide variety of books, and participated in the hands-on workshops.

After 18 years of service, our wonderful children's librarian Mindy Hackner, has moved on to be the director of another local library. She is greatly missed by staff and patrons. A new children's librarian will be hired in the early spring.



*Spooky-Town is an annual tradition at Halloween that children of all ages find irresistible.*

### **“Your Place, Your Library”**

The Milne Public Library is your place to learn, grow, create, and connect to the many wonderful possibilities the library offers. Here you can meet your friends and neighbors, learn a new computer skill, find a new DVD or book, get homework help, enjoy a variety of programs, use our free Wi-Fi or volunteer for a number of different jobs. It's your place, and we want you to be here!

For those of you that have not visited your Town library, you are invited for a free card that gives you access to collections throughout the Commonwealth.

The 2011 year was one of great strides forward, as well as challenges. At the beginning of the year, the Milne Library applied for a State construction grant for a renovation and two small additions, the Trustees realized that the funding for the entire construction project was beyond town fundraising capabilities and the application was withdrawn. The library continues to review and plan future growth of the library for this community and

is revisiting what can be done to repair, remodel, and expand our aging infrastructure to meet the needs of a new generation of users.

The Milne Public Library continued to be a destination place for many in our community. Over the past year, almost 77,000 people visited our library; website usage saw 38,802 visits which increase monthly, and a quarter of our cyber visitors are new to accessing the website. Residents continued to cherish and use their public library, acknowledging the important role that libraries play as anchors in their communities and places where exciting things are happening. If you add up all of the circulations, museum pass usage, computer time, meeting room use, program attendance, and any statistic related to library use and apply it to the Library Use Calculator developed by the Massachusetts Library Association, this gives a Return on Investment average of how much the services the library provides you and would cost if you had to pay for them directly. For the Milne Library it is just over \$4 million for almost 6,000 cardholders.

We continue to meet technology changes, the library has adapted and adopted all the new formats for reading listening and viewing movies and TV shows. All available from our website [www.milnelibrary.org](http://www.milnelibrary.org) - you can access:

- E-books
- Digital audiobooks
- Online language learning with over 80 languages and ESL called BYKI
- Over 500 online courses (Universal Class)
- Downloadable videos
- Children's books, read-a-longs, games and puzzles all online called Tumblebooks
- Online full text journal articles and newspapers

Most all of these are available for your PC, laptop, e-reader, tablet, or cell phone.

Our own Patt Patterson won Town Employee of the Year. Patt works afternoons and every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday and is known for her cakes she bakes on her Saturdays and shares with the public. Patt is an incredible connoisseur of audiobooks and can help you find any book you are looking for.

### **Friends of the Milne Public Library**

The Friends is an invaluable membership organization of volunteers which funds diverse Children and Youth programming, including the annual Summer Reading Program; furniture, equipment, and technology needs; staff training and professional development opportunities; and print and media acquisitions for the adult, young adult, and children's collections.

This year's publication of Cooking with Friends, a collection of family and local author recipes, is for sale at the library. The Friends' 2011 Book Sale, Auction, and Café, one of the largest in the Northeast, raised over \$23,000 to benefit the Library. In June 2011, the Friends realized a longtime dream and converted a closet into "The Book Nook," satisfying year-round book borrowers and becoming an ongoing source of income for the Friends.

Each November the Friends launch a membership drive for the following calendar year. In 2011, household memberships numbered 433, raising over \$12,000 in dues. On behalf of the Friends 14-member Board, President Ginny Sheldon encourages residents and library lovers to become members as well as volunteer for the book sale and special projects. Until it is completed, the Friends' developing website can be accessed through the library's site [www.milnelibrary.org](http://www.milnelibrary.org).

### **The Library Board of Trustees**

The Trustees increased its elected Board to 7 members this year and were focused on a building renovation and addition for the past year with EDM architects. Their current challenge is to revisit immediate space needs for the public, staff and collections and go forward with a new plan to provide future space to continue to meet the needs of the community and embrace new technologies and emerging trends.

Current slate of the Board of Trustees is:

Marilyn Faulkner – Chair  
Peter Mehlin Treasurer  
Mark Maniak  
David Dewey

Rebecca Ohm – Secretary  
Nancy McIntire – Friends liaison  
Kathleen Schultze

### **Children's Services**

#### **Mindy Hackner – Children's Librarian**

Those bells you hear aren't tolling for the death of the book just yet. A close look at a few measures of usage in our children's room show a robust and healthy library department. From classic programs like story time to more rambunctious specials like Otha Day's drum circles and "Pirates Ho!", our total program attendance was over 2100 children. Circulation of library materials in the children's room is just over one-third of the library's total and greater than many small libraries in Berkshire County. All of this good news is thanks to the support of our director and trustees, the generosity of our "Friends", and the hard work and imagination of library staff. But, the real heroes are the children of Williamstown who come in large numbers to request a special book, tell the librarians about a new series or undiscovered author make suggestions for arranging or decorating the department, and tell their classmates about all the new stuff at the library.

This year we added "Tumblebooks" to keep up with the demand for e-books. With over 200 books, audio-books, games and puzzles for electronic devices, Tumblebooks now includes iPad-compatible and foreign language books. Children can also use the library's BYKI Language learning system and Kids Speak USBs to brush up on their language skills. For entertainment, we've retained many older videocassettes and greatly expanded our DVD collection. As for the old-fashioned library book, we are greatly heartened by a recent survey indicating that most parents still use the beloved "picture book" with its over-sized, hard covers and colorful artwork to encourage a love of reading. So we keep growing the book collection adding hundreds of titles each year.

In related news, the Fund for Williamstown through the Berkshire Taconic Foundation granted us a tidy sum to create our "family fun packs." These packs contain books, videos, instructions and tools for families to explore three different outdoor adventures; fishing, hiking, and the enormously popular sport of geocaching. The Friends of the

Milne Library supported our summer reading program 'One World, Many Stories' by purchasing our posters, logs and prizes, bringing in guest travelers, funding our international tea and cookie parties, and bankrolling our special guests "Mister G" (Ben Gunderscheimer) and Rona Leventhal. We need to forewarn the Friends, next year's theme is 'Dream Big' and we are hard at work dreaming about all that we can do at the library. Join us.



*Library book group meets with local author Judith Weber to discuss her newest book "Forbidden Friendship"*





*Otha Day's "Drum Songs" program was very popular program*

## **Young Adult Services**

### **Helen Olshever**

This year we managed to obtain some new shelving in the YA Room, so that we were finally able to consolidate our collection. Now that all of the YA materials are together, and shelf space is more extensive, it makes shelving much easier for our great volunteers.

Our circulation improved this year, and we also had a number of very successful workshops for teens and 'tweens. We ran two workshops in conjunction with WilliNet; an improvisation workshop facilitated by the Royal Berkshire Improv Troupe; a book-making workshop where kids created intriguing folding books; and a tremendously successful photography workshop called "Your Story, My Story" in conjunction with kids from the Bennington Free Library. We had a successful summer reading program with 35 participants who did a great deal of interesting and diverse reading, and won prizes for their efforts.

Our collection continues to grow, consistently adding excellent new literature written specifically for the teenage population. Both our fiction and non-fiction collections are not only popular in our library, but often go out to kids at other libraries through inter-library loan. We also have been slowly growing our audio book collection, and continue to serve the high school students during the summer, by making available multiple copies of their required summer reading books.

Upcoming in early 2012, we are planning a cartooning workshop for ‘tweens and teens, and we will continue to offer other workshops of interest to this age group throughout the year.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Charles Fox, Chair, and Suzanne Dewey, Vice-Chair, for 2012**



During the calendar year 2012, the following members served on the Finance Committee: Paula Consolini, Suzanne Dewey, Charles Fox , Dan Gendron, Elizabeth Goodman, Andrew Hogeland, Doris Karamatsos, Elaine Neely, and Michael Sussman.

At the Annual Town Meeting on May 15, 2012 the Finance Committee recommended, and the Town approved, a budget of \$21,082,863 for Fiscal Year 2013 (July 2012 – June 2013) This figure represents an increase of only \$592,206, or 2.9%, over FY12. (This compares with an increase of 3.07% in FY12 over FY11.) Along with the overall efficiency of this budget, the Town was able to increase its Stabilization fund by 300%, which strengthens our bond rating. The recent budget pattern at MGRHS is noteworthy: under effective new leadership the FY13 budget increased by only .2% over FY12, while from FY11 to FY12 their budget remained even.

The appropriation breakdown approved at the Town Meeting on 5/15/12 is as follows:

Budget Category	FY 2012	FY 2013	% change
General Government	\$6,441,573	\$6,570,461	+2%
Williamstown Elementary School	\$5,261,544	\$5,366,744	+2%
Mt. Greylock High School	\$4,600,521	\$4,610,042	+2%
McCann Technical School	\$366,466	\$300,298	-18.1%
Sewer Department	\$1,086,834	\$1,144,848	+5.4%
Water Department	\$948,076	\$889,963	-6.2%
Transfer Station Department	\$207,010	\$187,142	-9.6%
Capital Projects	\$631,248	\$837,541	+32.7%



Debt Service	\$479,514	\$468,722	-2.3%
Community Preservation	\$293,730	\$426,500	+45.2%
FinCom Reserve Fund	\$50,000	\$75,000	+50%
Stabilization Fund	\$25,000	\$100,000	+300%
Chamber of Commerce	\$33,492	\$38,641	+15.4%
Youth Center	\$65,648	\$66,961	+2%
Total	\$20,490,657	\$21,082,863	+2.9%

## FOREST WARDEN

**Richard F. Daniels, Jr.**

For the year of 2012, the Forest Wardens Department issued regular burning permits from January 15 through May 1 as well as agricultural permits year-round, weather permitting. Also throughout the year, the department investigated outside smoke complaints. During the burn season, the department did daily fire checks, extinguished illegal fires, and fought out of control fires. The department issued 196 burning permits and responded to 46 calls. There were 14 smoke complaints and 20 illegal contents or no permit issued calls. We had 6 rescues and 6 out of control fires. The Wardens office also received 172 phone calls regarding questions about burning and camp fires.

The season was dry and the spring was windy, so there were many days that burn permits could not be issued. The state also issued many red flag days which meant no outdoor fires of any kind. Williamstown had 3 small out of control fires in 2012. The Department also responded mutual aid to Pownal Vermont for a fire in the woods in the White Oaks as well as spending two days in the town of Lee for a mountain fire.

The Wardens had 6 rescue calls, of which 5 were to find or assist hikers out of the woods with no injuries. The Wardens assisted Village Ambulance on the Stone Hill Trail with an injured mountain biker who needed immediate medical assistance and preparation for a Medi-Evac flight to Albany Medical Center. The day before Hurricane Sandy was to hit Williamstown, the Department prepared all equipment to assist the town in the event we were called for assistance.

The Williamstown Forest Wardens attended Fire Prevention Day in October, and the Department also attended all the town parades as well as the town of Rowe's parade. During the latter, we were awarded the 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy for a second year in a row.

All the members train regularly and completed CPR/AED and first responder training for the year as required by the State. Two of our members are certified for National Wildland Red Card Firefighters Type2, one member is an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and one is a Paramedic.

The Forest Warden’s Department received a grant from FY2011 Assistance to Firefighters Grant, through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for \$14,250 to purchase a new slide-in water pump and tank unit. This new unit replaced a 25 year old pump and tank. The new unit is a 225 gallon tank with high pressure pump and hose and can draft water from streams and ponds, which the old unit was unable to do for several years due to it condition.

**FOREST WARDEN DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL**

FOREST WARDEN	Richard F. Daniels Jr.	
SECRETARY	Dawn Daniels	
DEPUTY WARDENS	Michael Daniels, Military leave	
	Marcus Bottesi, Jr.	Peter Niemeyer
	Sean Peltier	Kevin O’Mara
	David Larabee	Alex Moody
	Morissa Daniels	

**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Ronald Stant, Chairman**

The Williamstown Board of Health is established under Massachusetts General Law chapter 111, section 26, and chapter 41, section 1. Board members are appointed by the Town Manager and are tasked with enforcement of public health laws not reserved for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Duties include oversight of: food establishments, bathing beaches, septic systems, private wells, housing, swimming pools, tanning facilities, refuse and recycling, manufactured housing communities, beaver control, recreational camps, and nuisances affecting the public health.

Under Massachusetts General Law chapter 111, section 31, Boards of Health “may make reasonable health regulations” to address issues not covered under State laws and regulations. Local regulations include: Body Art, Floor Drains, Food Establishments, Manufactured Housing Communities, Nuisances and Noisome Trades, Refuse and Recycling, Rental Property, Schedule of Fees, Septic Systems, Smoking, and Wells.

The Board also reviews and issues applications for permits and licenses which fall under their purview. New applicants appear before the Board to answer questions about the activity they wish to pursue in Williamstown. Permits and Licenses are granted based upon the applicants compliance with all State and Local laws and regulations. Renewal applicants need not appear before the Board but must still complete all required application, along with the appropriate fee and any attendant documentation requested. The Board of Health will also act as the hearing authority in cases of dispute with the findings of the Health Inspector, or when a variance from the provisions of a State or Local regulation is requested.

Guidelines for requesting hearings are listed in the various Department of Public Health or local Board of Health regulations. Massachusetts General Law chapter 30A outlines basic provisions for Boards acting as adjudicatory authority. Variances are heard when the petitioner believes that, “(a) The enforcement of the regulations would do manifest

injustice; and (b) the applicant has proved that the same degree of protection of the public health, safety, and welfare can be achieved without strict application of the particular provision. Any alternative means of protection shall be detailed and documented by the applicant to the satisfaction of the Board of Health.” Decisions of the Board may be appealed to a Massachusetts Superior Court.

The Williamstown Board of Health takes its responsibilities seriously, acting not capriciously or lightly, under the guidelines applicable to it, to insure the appropriate balance of private respect and protection of the public’s health is achieved.

After many years service, Dr. Alfred Wise resigned from the Board this past December. The Board of Health wishes to sincerely thank him for his attention to the public good, his unselfish service in peaceful times and disaster, and his leadership through the years.

### **Highlights from 2012 – Alfred Wise, M.D.**

**Membership:** Ruth Harrison, RN; Ruth Richardson, RN; Ronald Stant, Lat, Marcia Tessier, RN; Alfred Wise, MD, Chair.

Alfred Wise stepped down from the Board on 12/31/2012 and Erwin Stuebner joined the Board on 1/1/2013.

**Licenses and Permits:** Please see Health Inspector Kennedy’s report.

**Public Hearings and Enforcement Actions:** A hearing was held to address Mr. Brian Young’s wish to process chickens, which he raises on his farm, and to sell them as a commercial product. The board approved this project after inspection of the farm pending State approval and meeting licensure requirements.

After a hearing, a variance was granted to David Loomis to operate two rental units with non-conforming ceiling heights in the second floor sleeping areas.

A request to have inspection of the septic system and rental unit at 41 Hancock Road was met.

A request to DH Trucking to have proper permit for refuse hauling in Williamstown was met.

**New Regulations or Actions:** Kim Wells, the owner of East Mountain Farm, is now the Agricultural Commission’s liaison to the Board.

Mr. Kennedy now has MAVEN (Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network) Certification.

A private well at the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation was inspected and recommendations for needed corrections were made.

**Recognition:** It has been a pleasure to work with Mr. Kennedy and Ms. Thompson for more than 10 years. Their professional competence and administrative skills have been and are invaluable to the board and a great asset to the community.

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tanning facilities, refuse and recycling, manufactured housing communities, beaver control, recreational camps, and nuisances affecting the public health.

In 2012 the Williamstown Board of Health consisted of: Chair Alfred Wise, Vice-chair Ronald Stant, Ruth Harrison, Ruth Richardson and Marcia Tessier. Staff for the Board includes Health Inspector Jeffrey Kennedy, Department of Inspection Services Administrative Assistant Kathleen Thompson, and Animal Inspector Jacqueline Lemieux.

In June the Board of Health held a public hearing and approved the operation of a mobile poultry processing unit at the farm of Brian Young on Hancock Road. The approval was for the site only; Mr. Young will have further State requirements to meet prior to being permitted to operate. The Board of Health encourages local food and farm operations, within the provisions of State and local laws and regulations.

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## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

**Chris Lemoine, Superintendent**

After forty one years of dedicated service to the Town of Williamstown, Superintendent Scott Park has retired from the Department of Public Works. Scott was always enthusiastic about his work and strived to improve the Towns infrastructure. He constantly reminded everyone that it is the citizens of Williamstown that we are



responsible to. Scott was very active in professional organizations and has served as president with the Massachusetts Highway Association, Berkshire County Highway Superintendent's Association, Mass Waterworks Association, and as a commissioner for the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste district. We all need to appreciate "Scotty's" commitment to his job and this town. Scott will always be a good colleague, neighbor and friend to all of us and we hope for him many earned years of doing the things he enjoys during his retirement. I miss him.

*Scott Park - Photo courtesy of Gillian Jones, North Adams Transcript*

The Department got an early start with road construction this year beginning in March. Our efforts focused on the reconstruction of the section of North Hoosac Road from Cole Avenue to Bridges Road. Additional storm drainage was installed along with the replacement of existing catch basins, manholes and drainage pipes. The highway crew utilized precast reinforced concrete structures which have a much longer life span and carrying capacity than

traditional brick and mortar. High density polyethylene piping replaced rusted and cracked steel or concrete pipe. The road was then ground, lowered and sub graded and profiled in preparation for the blacktop binder and overlay surfaces. All new curbing, sidewalks and driveway aprons were then installed followed by the cleanup, loaming and seeding of all disturbed areas to complete the project in early October. This is the type of project that distinguishes the Williamstown Department of Public Works from others. I commend the crew members for their ability and commitment in completing a project of this magnitude.

Chip sealing is the most cost effective way to extend the lifespan of bituminous asphalt roads and we did quite a few in 2012, consisting of Manning Street, Wilshire Drive, Elliot Drive, Lee Terrace, Harrison Avenue, Sand Springs Road, Ballou Lane, Knolls Road, Waterman Place, Talcott Road, Hopper Road and lower Henderson Road.

In an effort to prevent flooding and with guidance from the Conservation Commission, the Highway crew completed the task of removing a very large log jam deposited by hurricane Irene along the bank of the Hoosac River opposite Syndicate Road. A total of 900 cubic yards of debris was removed from the site. Enough firewood was salvaged from the debris to heat the Public Works building for an entire year. The worksite will be seeded with a conservation seed mix in the Spring of 2013 and will be monitored. What was once a tangled and dangerous mess is now beautiful and safe.

Other notable completed tasks performed by the Department crew was the rebuilding of a retaining wall on White Oaks road, replacement of a metal roof on a cold storage building at the DPW, grading of all town gravel roads, catch basin repair or replacement, roadside brush clearing , repetitive road sweeping, traffic line and crosswalk painting, sign replacement or installation, culvert and storm drain cleaning, tree trimming and removal , firewood processing, driveway apron replacement, and road paving.

The 2011-2012 snow season started early with a storm in late October but overall it was a mild winter with only 35 inches of snow falling for the entire season. The department was dispatched 31 times for slippery road conditions, well below the average of 48. The department used 2,151 tons of sand and 1,751 tons of salt for the season. The spring season brings with it muddy conditions on our gravel roads but due to the mild winter there was minimal disturbance.

The Department purchased a new Volvo loader and a new International dump truck to replace existing equipment that had exceeded their life expectancy.

## **HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

**William Barkin, Chairman**

In 2012 the Commission heard from Mr. Jamie Art who gave an overview of the Preservation Restriction Agreement between the Town of Williamstown and the Williamstown Community Preschool, an entity operating on the premises at 777 Main Street (formerly First United Methodist Church of Williamstown) in which the Board of Selectmen signed off and appointed the Historical Commission as its agent for administering the restriction. Before the Historical Commission accepted such appointment as the Town's agent and signed the document, a discussion ensued with Mr. Art explaining key highlights of the restriction.

Satisfied with Mr. Art's responses to the commission members' concerns, all commission members voted unanimously to signed the document.

The next few meetings concerned work that the preschool needed approval by the commission on. The overviews were presented by Ms. Katherine Swabey of the Williamstown Community Preschool.

- The first concerned a plan to replace its existing oil-fired heating system with a gas-fired system.
- The second was a proposal by Ms Diane Rousseau, a stained glass conservator, for the installation of Lexan on the interior sanctuary and choir stained glass windows for protection against damage.

- The third consisted of various upgrades to mechanicals in the building such as sprinklers, emergency lighting, exit signs, and smoke detectors.

All approvals were granted unanimously by the commission.

The Williamstown Historical Commission also unanimously voted to approve the following proposed work by the preschool to the former Methodist Church, on the condition that all visible door hardware on the exterior of the Water Street doors be antique bronze, as opposed to chrome: upgrading of existing Water Street doors and door hardware to meet safety and accessibility requirements.

## **HOOSAC WATER QUALITY DISTRICT**

### **Bradley O. Furlon, Chief Operator/District Manager**

#### District Commission

John L. Moresi, D.D.S., Chairman – North Adams  
 Charles Schlesinger, Vice Chairman – Williamstown  
 Ronald Boucher, Secretary – North Adams  
 K. Elaine Neely, Member/Assistant Treasurer – Williamstown

#### Chief Operator – Assistant Chief Operator – Treasurer

Bradley O. Furlon, Chief Operator/District Manager  
 Mark J. DePonte, Assistant Chief Operator  
 John R. Gaffey, Treasurer

#### Narrative

The Hoosac Water Quality District (District), which serves the Town of Williamstown and the City of North Adams, treated a total of 1,522,903,000 gallons of raw sewage during Fiscal Year 2012, which represents a increase in flow of 85,250,000 gallons as compared to Fiscal Year 2011. In addition, the District treated 598,297 pounds of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and 834,264 pounds of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) in FY 2012.

Some key highlights of FY 12 were:

- Even though Hurricane Irene did little to no damage to the District's Wastewater Treatment facility, many areas of the District's interceptor line from North Adams to Williamstown were damaged. District personnel worked tirelessly cleaning and removing silt, trees and debris from all manholes along the interceptor.
- After inspecting the entire interceptor line, two major wash outs were found along the Hoosic River. These sections were found to be in emergency repair. The first was a 400 foot section behind the Spruces Mobile Home Park. This required the placement of over 4000 tons of rip rap, ranging in size of 3 foot to 6 foot to reinforce the river bank to support the 42 inch sewer line. This project started September 26, 2011 and was completed October 21, 2011 by D.R. Billings of Lanesboro, MA.

- The second major area that needed repair was along the river bank behind 29 Kateley Lane. This required the repair of about 225 feet of the Hoosic River bank. Here there were three stone barbs placed into the river with rip rap up 6 feet of the bank and the rest of the river bank being restored with natural plantings, which is protecting a 36 inch sewer line carrying all flows from North Adams and Clarksburg. This project was completed by Northern Construction LLC. of Weymouth, MA.
- The District put together a capital improvement project which consists of replacement of the District's secondary clarifier mechanisms, replacement of compost fan buildings, flow meter building modifications, polymer system upgrades, wet well modifications, PLC upgrade to Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, SSI mixer replacement and paving of compost facility area. These upgrades are going out to bid in the spring of 2013. These upgrades were not completed during the Upgrade of 2006. Total estimated costs for these improvements are approximately \$2,300,000.
- On April 29, 2011, the District submitted its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Application to MADEP and EPA. The District received a Draft NPDES Permit August 27, 2012. At this time, the District is now waiting for the NPDES Permit to be finalized.
- District personnel, which include six license wastewater operators, continue to work tirelessly to ensure that every requirement included in the Consent Decree and NPDES permit is fulfilled. Monthly reports are submitted to the District Commissioners, EPA and DEP, which outline all actions being taken to ensure complete compliance.
- Since 1983, the District's compost facility continues to produce Type I compost as defined by the MADEP. About 5000 yards of final compost was produced in FY12. During FY12, compost was made available to individual members of the local communities; however, the bulk of the compost was sold throughout the state of Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut and Vermont by a contracted vendor.
- Public interests in the District's facility is becoming more frequent, with many tours given to Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Williams College, North Adams Public Schools, Williamstown Public Schools and Gabriel Abbott Memorial School.

As always, we look forward to the challenges each year presents to us and remain committed to keeping our communities clean and safe.



## **INSPECTION SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**Michael J. Card, MCO, Inspector of Buildings**

**Ryan A. Contenta, CBO, Local Inspector**

**Jeffery Kennedy, Health Inspector**

**Andrew Groff, Planner**

**Kathy Thompson, Administrative Assistant**



***The Williams College Stetson Hall project under construction.***

The Inspection Services Department is responsible for various types of permitting in Williamstown. Our department includes our Health Inspector, Town Planner, and Building Officials. Our department is responsible for providing support to all members of the community who are investigating the possibility of embarking on any type of development, large or small. Whether the proposal is a small home addition or a large commercial building Inspection Services provides the same level of service to all members of the Williamstown community. Having all the technical knowledge about applicable local and state regulations and laws in one department is a great advantage for Williamstown. It is our responsibility to help citizens make sense of these laws and regulations and ensure the permitting process is simple fair and equitable for all stakeholders of any size project.

The Department's Planner and our Health Agent provide staff support for their individual boards, and assist residents and business owners with any regulatory approvals from these boards. Additional information about the activities of the Board of Health, and our Land Use boards, which include The Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board, Sign

Commission, and the Conservation Commission can be found in each individual board's annual report.

The Department's Building Officials are responsible for issuing building permits, performing plan reviews, and progress inspections. Plan reviews are done for most projects. The amount of time spent on each review depends upon the complexity of the project and if all required information has been provided. In addition to reviewing plans the building officials often meet with homeowners, builders, architects and engineers in the process of reviewing projects of all sizes. All of these reviews require great attention to detail to ensure residents of Williamstown are receiving a product that complies with the Massachusetts State Building Code, and other applicable regulations.

In reviewing many permit applications the Building Code requires verification of compliance with required permits outside our jurisdiction. These may include: onsite water supplies and sewage disposal systems (Board of Health); Wetlands Protection Act (Conservation Commission); driveway entrance permit (DPW), subdivisions, scenic roads, development plans, zoning bylaw, including special permits and variances (Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals); work done in any railroad right of way, hazards to air navigation, workers compensation coverage (Commonwealth and FAA) before a building permit may be issued. This requires close co-ordination with other staff and agencies. Unfortunately this may sometimes causes delays in obtaining a permit, but is out of our control.

2012 began with the continued issuance of demolition permits for damaged trailers at the Spruces Mobile Home Park. By the end of 2012 88 of the 159 mobile homes made uninhabitable by Tropical Storm Irene had been removed from the park. Currently Emerald and Nutmeg Lanes, in the Spruces are nearly devoid of homes.

Several commercial construction projects continued in Williamstown throughout 2012. We saw the successful completion of a new building for the Williamstown Youth Center. Over at Williams College the Stetson – Sawyer Library project has been progressing well. By the close of 2012 concrete work for the addition to Stetson Hall was nearly complete. The project continues as crews begin work on closing in the structure and fitting out the interior of the building. This project is on schedule and expected to be completed in 2014.

Work also continues at a brisk pace at the Clark Art Institute. Phase 1 of the Clark's multiyear expansion and renovation plan was completed in 2012. This phase of the project consisted of a new mechanical and physical plant to the north of the Clark's original marble structure that is almost entirely underground. At the close of the summer season last year the Clark closed the original museum building to begin extensive renovations to that structure. Work on site will continue throughout 2013 on both the new Visitor Exhibition and Conference Center, and the renovations to the original 1953 museum and the 1973 Manton building. All construction on the Clark's campus is scheduled for completion in June of 2014.



***The connector from the Clark Art 1955 Museum to the new Visitor Conference and Exhibition Center under construction.***

Despite the brisk pace of commercial construction in Williamstown the downturn in large residential construction projects is still ongoing. This year for the first time in over 20 years a building permit for a new single family home was not issued. There was however still a significant number of building permits issued for 2012, with the total coming in at 543 permits. The majority of these were for small maintenance or renovation jobs such as new roofs, heating system replacements, siding, kitchen, and bathroom renovations. There were also several major renovations or additions to single family homes. The Building Code has not undergone any changes in 2012. The Commonwealth does also not anticipate any major code revisions in 2013.

In addition to reviewing plans and performing progress inspections for various building projects around Williamstown; there are several types of inspections we perform that many citizens may not be aware of. These include inspections of temporary tents, set up for various occasions; review of plans and inspection stage and scenery for productions at the Williamstown Theater Festival; inspections of the stage and bleachers at the Williams Commencement, and annual inspections of over 300 public buildings.

Annual inspections of assembly, educational, institutional and residential buildings are done every year, and a certificate of inspection is issued. The most important inspections involve establishments which serve alcohol. These buildings must be inspected by the Building Inspector and Fire Chief and certified before an alcohol license may be renewed

or issued.

The next time you're in a restaurant, library, gymnasium, or auditorium, the yellow certificate posted on the wall signifies that the space has been inspected and certified. These inspections help to ensure your safety in the event of an emergency at any of these Williamstown establishments. This as is the case in our daily responsibilities as well, is our number one concern, safety.

## **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

### **Jeffrey C. Kennedy, RS, Health Inspector**

Health inspection functions in Williamstown are mandated by State laws and regulations, and by local Board of Health regulations. The inspection and monitoring requirements are many, and include, but are not limited to, food establishments, bathing beaches, septic systems, private wells, housing, swimming pools, tanning facilities, refuse and recycling, manufactured housing communities, beaver control, recreational camps, and nuisances affecting the public health.

The Health Inspector for the town holds licenses as a Registered Sanitarian, a Soil Evaluator, and a Septic System Inspector. All licenses require a commitment for continuing education in the various aspects of their applicable disciplines. Registered Sanitarians are required to accrue 12 contact hours each year; Soil Evaluators and Septic System Inspector must accrue 10 hours every 3 years.

Did you know that over 10% of the boards of health in the United States are located in Massachusetts? Functions that in other states are handled at the state or county level are under the purview of local boards of health. Boards of health or their designated agents have the same responsibilities, and are required to perform the same duties no matter the size of their community. In rural western Massachusetts, boards and their agents do not have the luxury of specializing in certain aspects of a board of health's day-to-day responsibilities. They are general practitioners of public health. It's what makes public health in this side of the Commonwealth both interesting and challenging.

- In 2012 the Board of Health had 257 permits in their database.

Food Establishment inspections are performed on restaurants, cafeterias, dining facilities, bed and breakfasts, non-profit organizations serving an occasional meal for a fee or donation, and retail stores. Inspections look at food handling, facility infrastructure and equipment, and employee cleanliness and appearance. Efforts are made to work with the establishments to upgrade their facilities and improve practices, if needed, to insure patrons are getting a safe meal. New and upgraded establishments require that an application and plan are submitted for review. A schedule of all new equipment with specification sheets are also required.

- There are currently 86 establishments which undergo, at a minimum, annual or semi-annual inspection by the Health Inspector. Additional permits are issued to temporary establishments, which are inspected as needed.
- A total of 151 inspections were conducted in 2011.

The Board of Health issues retail establishment licenses to individual vendors selling processed foods at a farmers' market. The Board of Health must assess the facilities available to the farmer's market, and prohibit any food-handling operation that cannot be

safely performed. In addition, the Board of Health may prohibit the sale of certain food items if the items cannot be handled and maintained in accordance with 105 CMR 590.000 requirements.

- In 2012, the Board of Health issued 36 such licenses for various processed foods to be sold either at the Williamstown Farmers Market and/or the Williamstown Holiday Farmers' Markets. These markets are inspected by the Health Inspector.

The Board of Health requires all rental units to have undergone an inspection within 12 months prior to occupancy by the current tenant. The units are inspected for compliance with 105 CMR 410.000 Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation, State Sanitary Code, Chapter II. Every unit that meets the standards is issued a Certificate of Compliance. Other conditions also apply, depending upon the length of tenancy.

- There are 808 dwelling units listed in the Rental Unit database. Some of these units may no longer be rental units through sale or conversion to condominium.
- 147 applications for inspection were received in 2011

Every house without access to community water must have a private water supply approved by the Board of Health or its Agent. The Board requires that the proposed well is sited by a Professional Engineer or Registered Sanitarian to meet all safety setbacks, and is drilled by a Massachusetts registered well driller. Following drilling, water quality and quantity reports are submitted by the driller and/or property owner to the Board for review to determine that the supply is sufficient for the house, and meets chemical and bacterial standards. If all information is acceptable, a Certificate of Compliance is issued. A building permit for a new home will not be issued for homes on a private water supply until the Board issues a Well Certificate of Compliance. The Board of Health also requires most of this information for ANY well intended to supply water for ANY purpose. Many geo-thermal system wells have been permitted recently.

- Well permits issued in 2012 - 3.
- Total private wells drilled since 1992 regulation - 133

Every home without access to community sewer must have an on-site sewage disposal system that meets the requirements of 310 CMR 15.000, usually referred to as Title 5. Existing on-site systems must be inspected at time of sale or other title transfer, and failing systems or components must be upgraded to meet Title 5 standards. A new system starts with a soil evaluation (perc test) performed by a licensed Soil Evaluator and witnessed by the Board of Health. This insures that the on-site soils absorption system (leaching field) is correctly placed and sized for the home it services. A Professional Engineer or Registered Sanitarian will submit a design plan to the Board for review. Following review, if the plan meets the provisions of Title 5, and if a properly trained and licensed installer is contracted by the property owner, a permit to construct is issued. Inspections are conducted throughout the installation process by the Board and the designer to monitor compliance with the design plans. Any changes to the plans must be approved by the Board prior to implementation. If the system is constructed properly, and certificates of construction compliance are received by the Board from the engineer and installer, a Certificate of Compliance is issued for the system. Upgrades of failed existing system components are also evaluated for Title 5 compliance prior to installation. The Board of Health requires that all installers working in Williamstown

must have attended a training course recognized by the Berkshire County Boards of Health Association and have satisfactorily passed the given exam. In addition, the Board requires that all new or upgraded septic tanks have an effluent filter installed at the tank outlet. This helps prevent field loss through system clogging due to inattention.

If a Title 5 Septic System Inspection show that systems have a garbage grinder and/or a water softener discharging into the system, property owners are now informed by letter that their system is in noncompliance, and are instructed to remove the garbage grinder, and discharge the water softener to a drywell. Failure to do so could result in a damaged septic system requiring costly replacement or repair.

- Septic System permits issued in 2012 - 6
- Total Septic Systems in the Williamstown database – 584

The Board of Health from time to time examines all camps, motels, manufactured housing communities and cabins licensed by it and if, upon such examination, such camp, motel, manufactured housing community or cabin is found to be in an unsanitary condition, said board of health may, after notice and a hearing, suspend or revoke such license.

Williamstown hosts many recreational camps for children each summer. Camps must meet the standards set down by the State in 105 CMR 430.000, Minimum Sanitation and Safety Standards for Recreational Camps for Children. Fortunately, most camps are operating on the Williams College campus, which has dormitories, dining facilities, and other infrastructure subject to periodic building and health inspections. The Board insures that camp staff and counselors have undergone criminal and sexual offender record checks, that campers and staff have appropriate medical checks, that a licensed physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner is contracted as a health care consultant, and that adequate medical staff and equipment are available to meet the campers' needs.

- In 2012, 12 recreational camps for children were held in Williamstown. Most of these camps held multiple sessions throughout the summer.

Margaret Lindley Park has the only authorized public bathing beach in Williamstown. Beach bacterial sampling of the impoundment water at Margaret Lindley Park is periodically tested from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and has always showed excellent results, well within standards set by the state (No single *E. coli* sample shall exceed 235 colonies per 100 ml. and the geometric mean of the most recent five *E. coli* samples within the same bathing season shall not exceed 126 colonies per 100 ml). This facility continues to be very popular with many people in North Berkshire County.

- In 2012 the geometric mean established for the last 5 samples taken was – 18.6.

The Board of Health licenses and regulates through inspection the maintenance of safe and appropriate indoor air quality in ice skating rinks that utilize ice resurfacing equipment powered by combustible fuels which produce carbon monoxide or nitrogen dioxide and thereby protect the health, safety and well-being of the public.

- The Williams College Lansing Chapman Rink is inspected annually, usually during the Bay State Games.

The Board of Health also regulations nuisances and noisome trades, and may restrict and/or prohibit any trade or employment, nuisances, sources of filth, injurious odors and potentials for sickness, which may endanger the public health, safety, or welfare of the inhabitants of the Town of Williamstown. Many nuisance complaints are received anonymously by telephone, but still require follow-up and inspection.

Refuse haulers operating in the Town of Williamstown must be permitted by the Board of Health, and must offer recycling services.

- Number of permitted Refuse Haulers in 2012 – 10.

Williamstown has joined the Berkshire County Public Health Alliance to coordinate public health efforts on a larger scale and to assist in planning and implementation of public health functions to smaller communities.

- Since 1995, the Health Inspector has assisted other communities throughout the county by providing technical and physical assistance to those towns without a full time health agent. Although still available to assist other Boards of Health, the Health Alliance will provide that assistance in the future.

The Town of Williamstown has a very pro-active and involved public health program; there is much expected in this town of 8000 +. The Health Inspector continues to use federal, state and local regulations in a reasonable manner to insure the spirit and intent of each are used for the general maintenance and improvement of the community's public health needs.

## **SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

**Jeffrey C. Kennedy**

The Health Inspector, beginning in 2011, has assumed the position of Sealer of Weights and Measures, passing both the written and field test portions of certification. Additionally, there is a continuing education requirement for Certified Sealers.

The duties of the Sealer include:

Enforcement of, and compliance with, Massachusetts General Law chapter 98, sections 34 through 56D pertaining to weighing and measuring devices, including, but not limited to:

- Balances and Scales
- Weights
- Capacity Measures
- Liquid Measuring Devices
- Fuel Pumps
- Linear Measuring Devices

Collection of fees for each inspection performed, to be turned in to the Department of Inspection Services for deposit with the Treasurer/Collector.

The accurate and timely submission of all reports required by state and local authorities.

Insuring all equipment is maintained and repaired, and that certification of weights and standards is accomplished when needed.

- In 2012, 56 gasoline and diesel pumps, 25 test weights and 26 scales were inspected and certified.

## **DOG OFFICER & ANIMAL INSPECTOR**

**Jacqueline Lemieux**

### **Animal Inspections**

The Board of Health also oversees the duties of the Animal Inspector. Dog Officer Jackie Lemieux is also the appointed Animal Inspector for the Town of Williamstown. The Animal Inspector inspects the health and living conditions of livestock located in town, as well as investigating animal bite reports and processing or quarantine animal suspected of carrying rabies. She primarily operates under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 129, and reports her findings to the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources. The Board of Health has authority under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 111 to license all stables and promulgate regulations for the keeping of animals. The Williamstown Board of Health has not set fees for stables, nor has it written regulations, preferring at this time to operate under its adopted guidelines for the proper keeping of livestock. The Health Inspector has worked with the Animal Inspector on various stabling and livestock issues in 2008, and will continue to take an active interest in livestock oversight and care.

The primary duty of the Animal Inspector has recently become rabies control in the domestic animal population. There are several angles which must be covered to accomplish this.

1. Domestic mammals which come in contact with, or are otherwise exposed to the rabies virus must first be assessed to determine severity of risk. Depending on the vaccination status of the domestic mammal involved, it will be either quarantined or destroyed. Be sure to send in the Notice of Exposure forms that are used for this type of quarantine at least once a month.
2. The Animal Inspector will be contacted by local veterinarians when a client presents an animal which may have had an encounter with a potentially rabid animal. Again, the severity of the situation must be assessed before determining the proper course of action.
3. Any domestic mammal which bites a human or another domestic mammal must be quarantined for a period of ten days to determine the risk of rabies transmission. Be sure to send in the duplicate copies of the Order of Quarantine form at least once a month. If you do not have any animal bites in a six-month period, please send in a letter to that effect.
4. The Animal Inspector must ensure that all animals (wild or domestic) which must be tested for rabies are captured and euthanized. The head must be removed, packaged properly and submitted to the State Rabies Lab for testing.



(Any questions, call the Rabies Lab at (617) 983-6385 for copy of protocol.) This is not to say that the Animal Inspector must perform these tasks personally, but he/she must ensure that they are completed.

Municipal Animal Inspectors are also responsible for barn inspections. Depending on the city/town, this may be a light task or a lengthy one. Barn inspections are designed to:

1. get a good census of the domestic animal population of the town
2. be sure that all of the animals appear to be in good health and free from disease, and
3. observe animal housing and ensure ample food and water are supplied.

Permission to inspect any premise upon which animals are kept is assured to Municipal Animal Inspectors under Section 7 of Chapter 129 of the MGL. Visits should be scheduled for normal business hours. If a conflict between the animal owner and the Inspector occurs, the Inspector may have a local police officer accompany him or her. If the problem persists, please call the Bureau of Animal Health (617) 626-1792, 1795, or 1791.

The third duty of the Animal Inspector is to check ear tag numbers and date of arrival of cattle from out of state and to report this information on the Animal Inspector's copy of the Cattle and Llama Permit which is furnished to the Animal Inspector by the Department of Food and Agriculture.

5. Municipal Animal Inspectors may also be called to assist with other domestic animal disease quarantines in the event of an outbreak.
  - In 2012 there were 5 submissions for rabies testing. 0 were positive.
  - In 2012 there were 9 quarantines for animal bites or scratches. 5 of these were 10 day quarantine, 2 were 45 day quarantine, and 1 were 6 month quarantine.
  - In 2012 5 animals were euthanized for rabies testing
  - In 2012 15 barns were inspected, containing a total of 149 beef, 523 dairy, 17 goats, 107 swine, 14 Llamas, 113 horses, 519 chickens. 1 barn were referred to the MSPCA and the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources for further inspection.

### **Dog Officer**

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 140, sections 136A – 175 details the duties and responsibilities of Dog Officers. The Dog Officer is also responsible for the enforcement of the provisions of the Code of the Town of Williamstown, Chapter 10, Animals. Primarily, the Dog Officer responds to complaints of vicious and nuisance dogs, and seeks enforcement for any violations of the above named ordinances. The Dog officer can order the restraint and confinement of any dog found to be a nuisance or a danger, and can refer the matter to the Board of Selectmen for disposition in cases that require removal or destruction of a nuisance or vicious dogs.

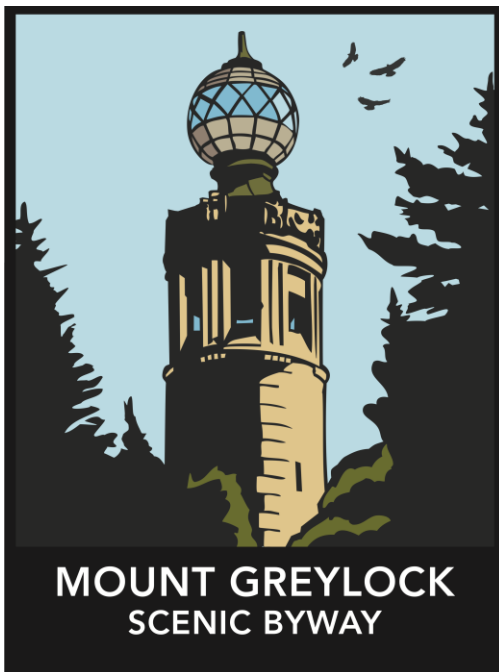
- In 2012 the Dog Officer responded to 85 dog complaints, 7 cat complaints, 50 wildlife complaints, 11 farm animal complaints.

The Dog Officer is also responsible for the Town Dog Shelter.

- Making sure there is enough food and supplies on hand. Donations of dog food were made this year.
- The new MGL has dropped the holding period from 10 days to 7days of October 2012.  
Two dogs were held for the 10 day required time period.
- Feeding, cleaning, walking dogs' daily and veterinary care if needed.
- 6 dogs were held at the shelter for various hours or overnight. 2 dogs were taken to the Berkshire Humane Society.

## **MOUNT GREYLOCK ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Cosmo Catalano**



Road signage for the Mt Greylock Scenic Byway:

The Mt Greylock Advisory Council's primary goal is the protection, maintenance and use of the Mt Greylock State Reservation and a unique natural resource for the citizens of Massachusetts. It meets quarterly to:

- Hold regular meetings to allow interested citizens or organizations to comment on matter affecting the Reservation
- To advise the Reservation management, the Division of State Parks and Recreation, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and, when appropriate, the Massachusetts State Legislature on Reservation issues.

Council consists of one selected by each of the six towns surrounding the

Reservation and 6 at large members appointed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Below is the current roster:

### **State Appointees:**

Steve Blazejewski V, Chair, Adams  
Mike Coyne, Pittsfield  
Blair Mahar, Savoy

Cosmo Catalano, Chair, Williamstown  
Stan Kopala, Adams  
Joe Rogge, Adams

**Town Appointees:**

Ed Carman, Lanesborough

Karmen Field-Mitchell, Cheshire

Paul Gigliotti, North Adams

Scott Lewis, Williamstown

Ken McInerney, Secty, New Ashford

The Adams appointee is pending as of Jan 2013.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation is also represented at Council meetings.

**Agenda items this past year included:**

- Input on the state's Scenic Byway program (see image below)
- Review of a new Interpretive Plan for the Reservation
- Renovations to the Mt Greylock Visitor's Center and updates to the displays to be presented in the Center.
- Support for a proposed bicycle route around the base of the mountain, primarily using existing paved and unpaved roads.
- Support for the New England Mountain Bike Association plans to request DCR for specific mountain bike trails within the Reservation.
- Support for the Thunderbolt Ski Race.

The most significant issue for the Council is the steady erosion of DCR staffing levels. At present, there are no plans to fill DCR's Regional Trail Coordinator position. While this position is not responsible for trails only on Mt Greylock, it does play a key role on the Reservation--as well as other DCR properties in throughout the Berkshires.

Of greatest concern to the Council is the change in the Reservation's Supervisor position from full time to seasonal. The Council does not believe a seasonal employee can be effective in communicating and supporting recreation constituencies that use the mountain all year long. The Council has communicated this concern directly to local DCR staff and written communication with Assistant Commissioner Priscilla Geigis. As of this report, no response from the Assistant Commissioner has been received.

DCR properties are a major factor in not only the quality of life that is treasured by local residents, but also are an important destination to visitors. Mt Greylock, as the icon of our landscape and the most visited outdoor attraction in the region (over 123,000 visitors just during the summer), must present the best of our natural heritage, protect its unique resources, and support year round recreational opportunities that all of our citizens and visitors can enjoy.

# **MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

**Rose Ellis, Superintendent**

**Jack Kurty, Principal**

**Christopher Barnes, Assistant Principal**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2012**

**School Year 2011-2012**

**STUDENT ENROLLMENT 585 FACULTY AND STAFF 90**

Mount Greylock Regional School District continued its transformation from a traditional middle and high school to one focused on providing students with 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills — those considered vital to working and living in a complex and rapidly changing global society.

At the outset of the 2011-2012 school year, the first tri-district Opening Day event was held which included the faculty and staff from Mount Greylock as well as the two elementary schools (Lanesborough Elementary School and Williamstown Elementary School), school administrators, School Committee members, parents, and town officials. With this Opening Day, the Mount Greylock community was able to commence the articulation of a vision for the school that touched the entire school district as well as the wider community.

Many of our 2011-2012 initiatives would not have been possible without the financial support of a very generous grant in the amount of \$135,000 from a Williams College alumni family.

Milestones completed in 2011-2012 include:

- A baseline assessment of the school's strengths and weaknesses, with an additional assessment focused specifically on Mathematics.
- Progress toward development/completion of a two-year strategic plan.
- Increased Professional Development for teachers.
- The launching of four teams of faculty to focus on nurturing intellectual relationships between faculty and students, moving toward a more effective schedule, integrating literacy across the curriculum, and infusing technology naturally into instruction. Recommendations from these lessons will be implemented next school year.
- Field studies of model schools in the region carried out by teams of faculty and administrators.
- The galvanizing experience of two teams of teachers/administrators attending a national model schools conference and the International Society of Technology Educators (ISTE) conference.

- The introduction of the school's first wireless network and the purchase of new High School hardware/software to advance instructional technology.

We continued to strengthen the depth of the staff and further support the shift to 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning with the creation and hiring of two new positions (effective fiscal year 2013)— Digital Media Learning Specialist and the tri-district position, Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Coordinator.

### ***NEW PRINCIPAL HIRED***

Mount Greylock Regional School District initiated an extensive search for a new Principal to lead the effort to yield the highest standards of student achievement and instructional excellence. The process to hire a principal was led by a Search Committee made up of parents, staff, students, and administrators. The Superintendent appointed Dr. Jack Kurty as Principal of Mount Greylock, effective July 2012. Dr. Kurty, a native of western Massachusetts, is an educator with experience in mission-driven organizations, program development, teaching and learning.

### ***MOUNT GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT and STAFFING***

#### **STUDENT ENROLLMENT**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>SP</b>
<b>11-12</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>10-11</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>7</b>

#### **EDUCATIONAL AND SUPPORT STAFFING (Full-Time Equivalents)**

<b>Faculty</b>	<b>49.7</b>
<b>Specialists (Nurse and Technology)</b>	<b>2.6</b>
<b>Special Education Teachers and Professional Support Staff</b>	<b>5.6</b>
<b>Paraprofessionals</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Custodians/Cafeteria</b>	<b>9.4</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>82.3</b>

### **STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS 2011-2012**

Mount Greylock students continue to receive recognition for high academic achievements.

Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS): Mount Greylock Level 1 School:

In the spring of 2012 the students at Mount Greylock were administered the MCAS and improved their performance over the previous years' numbers on all three tests. Mount

Greylock had been in “Corrective Action” during the 2011-2012 school year due to stagnating performance, but with this improvement, the school’s status progressed to Level I. Composite scores across grades 7, 8, and 10 for the English/Language Arts exam indicate that 93% of our students performed at the advanced or proficient levels; this was a 4% improvement over the previous year. Students from the same grades performed well on the mathematics test with a composite score of 74% of all students performing at advanced or proficient, which was up 10 percentage points from the previous year. Students in grades 7, 8, and 10 who were administered the Science, and Engineering/Technology test also realized a gain by improving from 44% in 2010 to 60% at the proficient or advanced levels.

Scholastic Aptitude Test: Results on the SAT tests were also impressive with a three-test average of 1712, which was well above the state average of 1551 and the national average of 1498. The three tests cover English, Mathematics, and Writing.

National Merit Scholars: In 2011-2012 we had one National Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar, 12 (AP) Scholars, 7 AP Scholars with Honor, and 11 AP Scholars with Distinction. Eight students, Luke Costley, Tom Dils, John Karabinos, Naomi LaChance, Karl Mick, Alex Montiel, Rebekeh Packer, and Aaron Taylor became National Merit Commended students; two students, Josh Harrington and Grace Singleton were National Merit Finalists; and one student, Ned Kleiner, was a National Merit Scholar.

Four-Year Graduation Rates: In the annual Massachusetts report on the percentage of students graduating with four years of attendance from 2008-2012, Mount Greylock had a very high rate of 94.5%. In June, 105 students of the Class of 2012 received their diplomas. Ninety-eight percent of the graduates planned to continue their education with 97% going to college. The 2012 class headed to 58 different colleges including: *Williams College, Princeton University, Brown University, Skidmore College, Trinity College, Western New England College, UMA/Amherst, MCLA, and BCC.*

## THRIVING PERFORMING ARTS

As is typical at Mount Greylock Regional School, the Performing Arts calendar showcased a variety of events. In January 2012, middle and high school students each performed winter band, orchestra, and choral performances under the guidance of our Music Department Faculty of Lyndon Moors, Band Director, Ouisa Fohrhaltz, Orchestra Director and Sherrie Howard, Choral Director. The high school musical, directed by Jeff Welch, was *Wonderful Town*, while the middle school students performed *Alice in Wonderland*, which was directed by Kathy O’Mara. The Spring Drama, *Pass the Butler*, was student-directed by Peter Iwasiwka and advised by Janean Laidlaw. In November 2011, a record number of 60 students performed *Richard III* in the annual Fall Shakespeare Festival production. Following on-campus performances, the Mount Greylock cast joined students from eleven other local high schools to stage the annual multi-school marathon of Shakespearean productions at the Founders Theater in Lenox.

The Friends of the Arts, a parent organization, once again held their annual Food of Love Festival at the Williams Inn. *Love and Chocolate* was the theme as the students from Mount Greylock performed selected Shakespearean scenes and read sonnets, while guests

enjoyed a sumptuous buffet of chocolate desserts. Funds raised at this event help support the Fall Shakespeare Festival. The Friends of the Arts are active year round in the support of art and cultural events at the school.

Mount Greylock student musicians and vocalists competed in Regional and State Music Festivals. Miranda Bucky, Schuyler and Taylor Fohrhaltz-Burbank, Nathan Majumder, Caleb Raymond, Sophia Santore, and Blake Sherman participated in the Western MA Senior District Music Festival in January. Students participating in the Western MA Junior District Festival in March included Lilly Crolius, Niku Darafshi, Mercer Greenwald, Aaron Kliener, Matthew Kleiner, Anya Sheldon, Andrew Whitaker, and Molly Wilson. Sophia Santore was selected to the All State Music Festival at Boston's Symphony Hall. In addition to competitions, our students provided instrumental and choral support for student theater. We are proud of our talented students.

### **VISUAL ARTS STUDENTS SHINE**

During the 2011-2012 school year, ten Mount Greylock students were honored by having their artwork on exhibit in The Norman Rockwell Museum for the annual *Berkshire High School Art Show*. Under the guidance of art teacher Jane Ellen DeSomma, Twenty-five students displayed artwork at a juried student exhibit hosted by MASS MoCA. This exhibit was entitled, "MASS MoCA High School Art Invitational" and many students claimed awards at this event, including the grand prize, which went to Heidi Lescarbeau. Mount Greylock students also displayed over thirty works of art at the annual art exhibit hosted by the Eclipse Mill Gallery in North Adams. Our students took part in a juried show hosted by the Dalton Artist Guild in Pittsfield, where Alex Delano won best in show and several other students won cash prizes.

The spring of 2012 marked the opening of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Boston Symphony Orchestra's summer season at Tanglewood in Stockbridge. For this momentous occasion, artists and art students throughout Berkshire County were invited to paint and alter oversized musical instruments, turning them into exciting sculptures which were installed on the grounds of Tanglewood for the season. Mount Greylock students proudly took on five of these sculptures, including a violin, a G-clef, a clarinet, a trumpet and a French horn. Presently, the French horn sits on permanent display in the Mount Greylock lobby.

### **THE WILLIAMS CENTER AT MOUNT GREYLOCK**

The partnership between the Williams College Center (WC) at Mount Greylock and the school continues to thrive. It now supports a plethora of programs and initiatives which develop and grow each year. Mount Greylock's relationship with the Williams Center impacts programs in writing, research, math, hands-on science, the arts, and after-school homework help. Notable among these initiatives are collaborative efforts by college students and high school English teachers to support student writing in many English classes and through online assistance. It is clear that this partnership provides many opportunities to enhance a variety of programs across the school.

In December of 2011, the Williams' math faculty again hosted a creative and innovative opportunity for Mount Greylock 10<sup>th</sup> graders. MathBlast, which is a series of real-life math workshops taught by Williams faculty, was organized to excite students about the

world of math. In addition, the Williams Center continued its support of the high school biology research project by arranging an orientation at *Schow Science Library* and by offering interested Mount Greylock students the opportunity to work with a professor in a college lab as part of that project. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row, The Center for Environmental Studies provided a Williams intern for the summer to support the gardening initiatives of the Mount Greylock Youth Environmental Squad (YES). Mount Greylock's school garden produced food for the cafeteria during both the fall and spring seasons. Once again, Williams professors and community members ran hands-on, place-based workshops for the 11<sup>th</sup> grade which was entitled, "*Where Are We?*" day. The sessions offered diverse experiences ranging from ecology and orienteering to environmental art. Throughout the year, more than 50 college students worked with middle school and high school students in after-school tutoring sessions, both at the school and on campus at Williams. Mount Greylock values its higher education partner—Williams College.

## ATHLETIC SCHOLARS

Mount Greylock student athletes continue to excel both athletically and academically while representing their school throughout Berkshire County. Of the 22 Varsity Programs hosted by the school, 21 earned *MIAA Academic Excellence Honors* during the 2011-2012 athletic seasons. Gold Honors were given to the 17 teams with an overall team GPA above 3.0, while Silver Honors were awarded to the 4 teams with a team GPA of 2.5-3.0. Additionally, Mount Greylock was once again awarded the *District Sportsmanship Award* becoming the first team in Berkshire County to receive the award during two consecutive years. Nicholas DiSantis, Thomas Guettler, Rachel Clement and Heather Tomkowicz were selected to attend the *MIAA Sportsmanship Summit* at Gillette Stadium to receive the award for Mount Greylock. Kristina Wadsworth, Sierra Holland, Susie Shanley, and Alexandra DeVeaux were honored at the *National Girls and Women in Sports Day* convention at Faneuil Hall. Alexandra Delano and Brett McCormack were selected by the MIAA to attend the *New England Student Leadership Conference* at Stonehill College. They will join three other students from the county who attended the conference to present a session on Sportsmanship and School Spirit to their younger peers at the first annual *Berkshire County Leadership Summit* in 2013.

Fall 2011: Five of the six fall athletic teams qualified for the *MIAA Tournament*. The Mount Greylock Football Team won their second consecutive *Berkshire County Superbowl Title* winning their 26th straight game. Both Cross Country Teams won *Western Mass Championship Titles* qualifying to compete in the *State Championship Meet* in which the girls placed 4th and the boys placed 8th. Emily Kaegi placed first at the sectional meet for the girls and Matt Cheung placed second for the boys. The Volleyball Team had an undefeated season and became *Western Mass Semifinalists*. The Boys' Soccer team once again had a 1st place seed in Western Massachusetts becoming *Western Mass Semifinalists*. The Girls' Soccer Team had their second consecutive team qualification and was *Western Mass Quarterfinalist*.

Winter 2011-2012: The Nordic Ski Teams continued their success by adding another set of *Massachusetts State Titles* to their repertoire. At the State Meet Joshua Harrington earned a third place finish and Mackenzie Hitchcock placed 4th. The Alpine Ski Teams sent Kent Hanson, Ryan Kuhn, and Ben Kobrin to the State Championship race where they placed 13th. The boys' team placed 2nd in Berkshire County, while the girls' team



placed 5th. The Wrestling Team won the *Western Mass Team Championship* qualifying for the *Massachusetts State Meet*, where they placed 20th. Josh Hadley and Anthony Carvalho each earned individual sectional titles. The Boys' Basketball Team went to the *Western Mass Semi-Finals*, and the Swim Team was the *Berkshire County Champions*.

Spring 2012: All eight spring athletic teams qualified for the *MIAA Tournament*. Both the Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse Teams did this in their first season as Varsity Programs at Mount Greylock. The Girls' Track Team won their 43rd straight dual meet, as well as the *Divisional Meet Championship* and placed 3rd in the *Western Mass All Division Championship Meet*. Jenna Phelps was the *Western Mass Champion* in the 400m hurdles and continued on to place 4th at the State Meet and 10th at the *New England Championships*. Oona Wood placed 7th in the 400m at the State Meet. Both the Softball Team and the Girls' Tennis Team were *Western Mass Quarterfinalists*. The Baseball Team and Boys' Tennis Team were *Western Mass Semifinalists*. Eric Leitch was selected as a member of the *Western Mass Junior All-Star Baseball Team*.

Given the success of our athletic teams this year, it is no surprise that our Athletic Director, Lindsey von Holtz, received the Theodore Damko Award, a distinguished honor from the Massachusetts Secondary Schools Athletic Directors Association, for her leadership of our interscholastic sports programs.

## **SUPPORTIVE PARENTS AND COMMUNITY**

Parents and community volunteers continue to support the many activities and programs at Mount Greylock. There was a successful and well organized "After Prom 2012" event held for the graduating class. The industrious athletic booster clubs and extra-curricular organizations received year round support through a combination of user fees and many on-site fundraisers. Parent, staff, and community members of the *SEE Fund Board* sponsored a successful fundraising telethon in collaboration with Willinet. The funds raised are used to enhance a variety of Mount Greylock programs and initiatives. Faculty and community members may apply for this financial assistance through educational endowment grants which are disbursed to enrich innovative, school-based ideas at Mount Greylock.

## **ON-GOING BUILDING INITIATIVE**

The 2011-2012 school year saw the Building Subcommittee's filing of a comprehensive *Statement of Interest (SOI)* with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to seek long-term assistance in a substantial building renovation or reconstruction project. In this SOI, Superintendent Rose Ellis and the Building Subcommittee identified several critical areas in need of improvement, including air quality, the heating system, accessibility, and the lack of science lab facilities. The SOI was filed in January, 2012. (While Mount Greylock's 2012 submission was not accepted into the MSBA's program, Superintendent Ellis and the sub-committee eagerly await a response to the 2013 Statement of Interest.)

**Community members are invited to stay apprised of Mount Greylock events and accomplishments by visiting the expanding Mount Greylock website at [www.mgrhs.org](http://www.mgrhs.org) and the new tri-district website, [www.wlschools.org](http://www.wlschools.org).**

## **NORTHERN BERKSHIRE CULTURAL COUNCIL**

**Judy Ensign and Jane Hudson, Williamstown Representatives**

The CCNB is part of a grass-roots network of 329 local councils that serve every city and town in the state of Massachusetts. As the local arm of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the CCNB is one of the largest cooperative councils and represents 11 towns including: Williamstown, Adams, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Florida, Hancock, Lanesboro, Monroe, New Ashford, North Adams, and Savoy. Representatives from the 11 towns rotate in 2-4 year cycles. The council is always looking for new volunteers to represent their towns. Contact Juliana at the Milne Public Library if you are interested in serving ([413-458-5369](tel:413-458-5369)).

The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which then allocates funds to each of their local councils. The amount allocated depends on the size of the population served and the amount designated by the state budget. Decisions about which community activities to support are made at the local level by a council of municipally appointed volunteers.

## **NORTHERN BERKSHIRE SOLID WASTE DISTRICT**

**Timothy Kaiser, Commissioner**

In 2012 there was hope that the global markets that had collapsed for our recyclables would start to come back which they did somewhat. This meant that the markets that became very choosy about the quality of material they would accept had eased up and we were able to go back to what we used to recycle in 2008.

The district also offers thing like (cistern rain barrels, and earth machine composter's) to all district member towns. If you have not visited our web site you should, there's a lot of useful information on all kinds of recycling and trash disposal.

The following District programs are run by the district. Any participating member town can participate:

- Household Hazardous Waste Collection
- Recycle Tire Program
- Surplus Paint Collection Program
- Compost bins for residents
- Mercury Thermometer Exchange
- Electronics Collection
- Bulky Waste collection
- School education programs
- Fluorescent light bulb collection

If residents have any questions about districts programs, please do not hesitate to call Sandy Totter at the district office at 413-743-8208 or go to our website at [www.nbswmd.org](http://www.nbswmd.org) or from a link on the Town of Williamstown website at [www.williamstown.net](http://www.williamstown.net)

# **NORTHERN BERKSHIRE VOCATIONAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**James Brosnan, Superintendent**

The Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District, McCann Technical School, students, faculty and staff continued their record of noteworthy accomplishments in fiscal year 2012 and this report highlights some of these accomplishments.

As the national and regional economic recession continued to affect the Commonwealth, McCann officials reduced expenditures while protecting our hallmark high quality vocational-technical and academic programs for our students. Our unanimously approved FY12 budget contained a modest .19 % increase.

We are most proud of our 1958 district agreement which created the first vocational regional school district in the Commonwealth. A thorough review of the agreement resulted in the formation of a district study committee to modernize the agreement to reflect current laws and regulations and to add the new communities of Cheshire and Lanesborough with the assistance of a Community Innovation Challenge Grant. This new agreement was unanimously approved by the original seven communities and with overwhelming margins in our new communities.

Our mission is to graduate technically skilled, academically prepared, and socially responsible individuals ready to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our mission and educational philosophy are implemented by adhering to the following core values:

**C**ommunication strengthens partnership development and teamwork.

**A**chievement is attained through a strong work ethic.

**R**espect from all guarantees a safe learning environment.

**E**thics ensure a dedication to honesty and integrity.

During the last sixteen years we have witnessed a dramatic transformation in vocational technical education especially in our application of technology and STEM subjects. We are very proud of the academic and technical achievement of our students and as each succeeding class raises the bar of accomplishment, the next class seeks to surpass it. Our students continue to excel in the technological and STEM areas as evidenced by our Science Fair team who earned a trip to the MIT Science Fair as a result of their efforts. Additionally, two of our information technology students qualified to compete at the national level in the CISCO Networking “Netrider” competition where students put their networking and IT skills up against the best IT students from across the country. The integration of our technical and academic curriculum has prepared our graduates well for their future and we appreciate you, our member communities, for your support in making it happen. Two of our automotive technology students finished in the top 5 in the Massachusetts Automotive Dealers Competition.

The accomplishments of our students reflect the McCann culture of learning:

- The Class of 2012 became the ninth class in a row to attain 100 percent competency determination on the MCAS tests.

- Twenty-five of the Class of 2012 earned the prestigious John and Abigail Adams Scholarship awarded through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education having scored at the advanced or proficient level in MCAS testing.
- The results of the spring 2012 MCAS test once again echoed the continuous progress of our students through their dedication and that of our terrific faculty. Once again McCann has achieved its goal measured by AYP and is ranked by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education , DESE, as a Level 1 school.

<b>GRADE 10 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS</b>					
<b>PERFORMANCE LEVEL</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
ADVANCED	8%	17%	11%	14%	21%
PROFICIENT	55%	56%	61%	73%	67%
NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	36%	25%	25%	13%	11%
FAILING	1%	3%	2%	1%	0%

<b>GRADE 10 - MATHEMATICS</b>					
<b>PERFORMANCE LEVEL</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
ADVANCED	23%	35%	30%	41%	33%
PROFICIENT	41%	39%	35%	37%	42%
NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	27%	22%	32%	20%	23%
FAILING	9%	5%	3%	3%	3%

<b>GRADE 10 - SCIENCE AND TECH/ENG</b>					
<b>PERFORMANCE LEVEL</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
ADVANCED	1%	9%	9%	11%	9%
PROFICIENT	40%	55%	51%	64%	54%
NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	52%	30%	28%	22%	30%
FAILING	7%	6%	12%	3%	7%

McCann competes in the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association which we joined 15 years ago. In 2011- 2012 our sports teams continued to represent their school in a manner that makes us proud of their sportsmanship and effort. The 2011 football team made it to their first ever Super Bowl, the boys' basketball team qualified for the

state vocational tournament, and the McCann students participating on the cooperative Mount Greylock wrestling team put on an impressive performance at the state wrestling meet.

Our 105 2012 graduates saw 64% continue their education in a variety of colleges and universities, 34% enter the workforce and 2% proudly enter into military service.

The New England Association of School and Colleges, Inc. conducted our decennial accreditation visit in October and we received overwhelming accolades from the 25 member team resulting in continued accreditation through 2022.

Our use of educational technology continued to evolve throughout the year as we upgraded five of our computer labs, added 48 laptops on two carts, and continued to add on line course modules that will be used for on-time remediation. We added Mimio software program to be used by all departments and upgraded a number of manufacturing, design and animation 3D software systems.

Community service projects continue to provide us with an excellent opportunity to allow our students to exhibit their skills and support community activities. Projects included renovations at Windsor Lake involving CAD, carpentry, metal fabrication and electrical students as well as a variety of handicap ramp projects. Our culinary students were very busy supporting a number of community groups including Relay for Life, families in need, and military family groups to name a few.

For the past 11 years our students have participated in SkillsUSA. We maintain 100% enrollment in the program, which has provided the opportunity for our students to earn scholarships, tools for their trade, opportunities for employment and awards in recognition of their accomplishments. Over the last 11 years, our secondary and postsecondary students have earned 20 gold medals at the national competitions. At the SkillsUSA state competition McCann high school students earned gold medals in 3-D visualization and animation and postsecondary students in dental assisting and medical assisting. High school silver medals were awarded in customer service and automated manufacturing technology and customer service. Postsecondary bronze medals were awarded in cosmetology and job interview.

Seven years ago, students from our business technology and information technology programs began participating in Business Professionals of America competitions. In that short time, our students have earned 100 awards in four categories at the State Leadership Conference and 28 awards in four categories at the national competition. During the 2012 national competition in Chicago 6 of our students finished in the top ten in these competitions. Three of our welding students earned ASME certifications at the Notch Pipe Welding Challenge and 3 others their entry level AWS certification.

Project Lead the Way, the leading provider of STEM education curriculum programs for middle and high schools in the U.S., certified the program at McCann in 2007. Students in the program complete four courses. Since the time of certification, 58% of participating students have become eligible for college credit through Rochester Institute of Technology and New Hampshire Technical Institute as a result of their performance on the national engineering examination. During 2012, 21 more students became eligible

to receive college credits for their PLTW coursework. Since the inception of the program 84 students have earned between 4 and 12 college credits.

The success of our student body continues to be measured by our 100% competency determination, high career placement, high college matriculation rate and technical expertise in national skills competitions.

The district continues to operate on sound financial management principals and incorporates technology in this process to ensure maximum benefit for all of our programming. In FY12 we continued to operate, as we have for the past 17 years, with the municipal minimum recommended assessments for all of our member communities. Additional requirements were assessed for student transportation and the capital rehabilitation debt service for the gymnasium project. At the end of the fiscal year we returned \$60,595.50 of unused transportation monies to our communities. The district continues to search out grants to support our educational funding to improve instructional services and vocational equipment.

During the summer we repaved our driveways and parking lots, upgraded electrical systems in machine technology and metal fabrication, installed new student lockers, and renovated our cosmetology salon.

<b>FY12 Budgeted Revenues</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Actual</b>
City & Town Assessments		
Municipal Minimum	\$2,076,564.00	\$2,030,421.75
Capital	\$121,875.00	\$121,875.00
Transportation	\$211,627.00	\$211,627.00
Ch. 71 Transportation	\$141,085.00	\$214,589.00
Ch. 70 General School Aid	\$4,195,758.00	\$4,195,758.00
Tuitions	\$1,217,714.00	\$1,217,671.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$8,390.00	\$8,662.71
Total Revenue Received	\$7,973,013.00	\$8,000,604.46
Additional Transportation Charges		(\$12,865.50)
Member City & Town Transportation Refunds		(\$60,595.50)
Misc. Revenue Balance to Surplus E & D		(\$272.71)
A/P Assessment Payable (Received in July)		\$46,142.25
	\$7,973,013.00	\$7,973,013.00

<b>Source Grant (Stimulus Funds)</b>		<b>Amount</b>
ARRA	ARRA Title II D	\$38,076.00
SFSF	Education Jobs	\$119,627.00
<b>(Federal Entitlement)</b>		
Fed	Sped 240	\$113,887.00
Fed	Title I	\$163,467.00
Fed	Title II A	\$20,548.00
Fed	Perkins	\$68,272.00
Fed	SPED Improvement	\$5,479.00
Fed	Postsecondary Perkins	\$5,811.00
<b>(State Entitlement)</b>		
State	Big Yellow School Bus	\$200.00
<b>(Competitive/Private)</b>		
Private	Olmsted	\$4,300.00
Private	BHG Wellness	\$2,000.00
Private	BCREB: Connecting Activities	\$2,000.00
Private	BCREB Northern Tier PV	\$30,276.00
Private	BCC-Solid Works	\$2,500.00
Private	Community Innovation Challenge	\$21,578.00
Private	City of Chicopee Nurse Grant	\$3,000.00
Private	Target – Taking Care of Education	\$147.17
Private	Hannaford Supermarkets	\$15.00
Private	Ohiopyleprints	\$67.80
<b>TOTAL GRANTS</b>		<b>\$601,250.97</b>

## PLANNING BOARD

Ann McCallum, Chairman



The Planning Board is an elected Board, responsible for overseeing the long term land use patterns of Williamstown through the Zoning Bylaw, Subdivision Rules, and Master Planning process. Comprised of five members the Board is chaired by Ann McCallum, with additional members; Richard DeMayo, Patrick Dunlavey, Elizabeth McGowan, and Chris Winters.

In 2012 the Board embarked on several initiatives to improve the zoning bylaw. The Board worked with farmers in Williamstown to expand allowable uses on agricultural properties, eventually bringing proposals from a local farm before town meeting to allow for parties and small concerts on farms. The Board also focused on housing by looking at the impacts of allowing accessory dwelling units on single family properties. This proposal was also brought to town meeting and is now part of the town's zoning bylaw. Planning Board members have continued this work of making sure Williamstown's zoning laws are working to create the kind of community Williamstown residents want to live in. The Board has spent considerable time revisiting longstanding issues involving the Tourist Business Zoning District. Additionally the Board has been pursuing other bylaw amendments aimed at making the bylaw easier to use and more consistent with existing land use patterns. The Board is looking forward to bringing these proposals forward at the 2013 Annual Town Meeting.

The Board has also been hard at work revisiting the 2002 Master Plan. This document and its associated Action Plan are being closely reviewed by the Board to identify any out dated aspects of the plan and other information that must be updated. The Board is continuing this process throughout the remainder of 2013. The Planning Board will be



meeting the second Tuesday of each month at 7 PM to discuss these and other important issues. We encourage the public to attend and discuss the present and future land use patterns of Williamstown, and how we grow, protect, and manage the fabric of our community.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Chief Kyle J. Johnson**

The Police Chief oversees the Police Department, Communications Section and the Forest Warden. These three departments are made up of a group of hard-working, dedicated professionals. Williamstown is very fortunate to have these people, and I would like to start this report by personally thanking these men and women for their continued hard work, dedication and professionalism that they display each and every day, and to the Community for the continued support of these departments.

### **Administration / Personnel**

Scott Sherman joined the department in 2012, serving as a part time Dispatcher in the Communications Section with aspirations to become an officer. Dispatcher/Special Officer Joseph Ross left the department to pursue other opportunities. Dispatcher Colin Shepley was hired full-time to replace Ross's dispatch position.

### **Trainings**

Training is a very important element for effective policing. Laws are constantly being created or updated, and technology is rapidly advancing in the world of law enforcement. There is a delicate balance between staying current, and sometimes even ahead of these changes, while working within the strict confines of a budget. The department recognizes the importance of training, and every year all officers receive In-Service training through classroom sessions in Pittsfield, or online through various agencies such as the Municipal Police Training Committee, Massachusetts State Police or the Municipal Police Institute.

2012 included subjects such as: Legal Issues/Updates, Use of Force and Defensive Tactics, CPR, First Responder and AED, K9 Issues, and Excited Delirium. All employees, Police, Communications and Administrative, became certified in the new standards mandated for the 911 Telecommunicator in Emergency Medical Dispatching (EMD), requiring delivery of pre-arrival instructions when warranted in medical calls.

We also conduct some training within the Department with our own staff functioning as instructors. These include handgun, long gun and electronic weapons qualifications. In addition to the in-service trainings and certifications, the following are some of the specialized training that was able to be attended:

**FEBRUARY:** Sergeant's McGowan and Lemieux attended an eight-hour Leadership Communication training in Revere, MA, to become more effective leaders to help build a more cohesive and productive workforce.

Sgt. McGowan also attended a four-day Detective Clinic in Taunton, Ma. This training included topics on step-by-step criminal procedures for investigating major case felonies.

Officer William attended training at the Attorney General’s Office in Boston MA, courtesy of the Berkshire County District Attorney’s Office. This three-day training resulted in certification in CelleBrite-UFED (Universal Forensic Extraction Device) Device. Officer William is now one of only two officers in Berkshire County who are certified to forensically analyze Cellular Telephones. The information that is gathered off the cell phones, along with the cell phone records, is commonly used to assist in investigations of drugs and drug-related crimes.

**MARCH:** Officer Preston Kelly attended five days of Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training in Pittsfield. The training was implemented to foster a better understanding and outcome in situations involving law enforcement and individuals with mental illness, covering such topics as: Mental Illness & Co-Occurring Disorders, Autism & Effective Police Encounters, Suicide & Intervention, Medication, and De-escalation Techniques. In conjunction with support from the Berkshire County District Attorney, this training was provided by the Berkshire County National Alliance on Mental Illness.

All employees certified in Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) as stated above.

**JUNE:** Canine Officer Ziembra and Blue attended their annual week of instruction in Westfield, MA where both earned their tracking recertification.

**OCTOBER:** All officers recertified in handgun, long gun and electronic weapons.

**NOVEMBER:** The Mass Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and the Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council sponsored training on “Evolving Threats against First Responders” at Berkshire Medical Center on Saturday, November 3, 2012. Officers William and Kelly attended, with reimbursement for training attendees’ overtime and shift fill approved by Homeland Security.

**GRANTS**

In 2012, the following grant monies and/or equipment were awarded to the Department. In most instances, the grants come with specific rules regarding implementation and they generally do not allow their use to supplant any portion of the operating budget.

The following grant monies were received:

Source	Purpose	Amount
State 911 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Support	Dispatch Equipment & Personnel Costs	\$25,892.00
State 911 Dept.	EMD Training	\$17,881.80

## **Programs & Assignments**

The Department continued its Community Policing approach throughout 2012, and will do so well into the future. Community Policing is a style of police work that puts heavy emphasis on partnering with the community and problem solving as many issues as possible that threaten to erode the quality of life within the community. A large emphasis is placed on the smaller, less obvious issues to help establish ways of dealing with them before they can become a source of erosion to the quality of life for the residents and visitors of our community. This is known as the “Broken Windows” theory. If a broken window is not fixed, then adjacent windows will be broken until the facade of the entire building is eroded. However, if this first window is maintained, the temptation to break other windows is reduced, and the building will stay intact. The “building” in this theory is the community. Everyone knows that crimes such as drug offenses, assaults and larcenies are violations of the law and dealing with these issues falls under standard police work. The Community Policing philosophy tackles the smaller issues that tend to lead up to these more serious crimes in an effort to prevent them from occurring altogether.

- Community Events Planning

The Department stays busy directing traffic around numerous events throughout the year. These include the Williams College Graduation and the Alumni Parade on Main and Spring Streets, the annual Holiday Walk on Spring Street, Memorial and Independence Day Parades, Cal Ripken Parade, and numerous road races that occur on town streets.

- A Safer Williamstown

This program allows the department to issue an informational brochure to all residents that apply for and receive either a Firearms Identification Card (FID) or a License to Carry (LTC) a firearm. The brochure focuses on safe gun storage, gun safety rules, and important points of law. Through a partnership with Project Home Safe, the Department is also able to distribute gun safety locks, free of charge, to all residents. Anyone in need of gun safety locks should call or stop by the Williamstown Police Department.

The issuance of the FID or LTC by the department has been expedited by the department implementing MIRCS (Massachusetts Instant Record Check System). MIRCS is a new program implemented through the Criminal History Systems Board for online instant record checks, photos and fingerprinting for firearms licensing applicants and should improve efficiency in the licensing process by confirming data and fingerprint identification immediately. This system allows for an electronic application process to reduce the delays caused by forwarding paper applications by mail. Sergeant David Lemieux is trained to administer and process all applications, and generally new applicants and renewals can be performed between 4:00PM and 10:00PM when Sgt. Lemieux is on duty. People are encouraged to call just prior to coming to the station to check his availability.

- Prescription Round-Up

The Williamstown Police Department participated in two of the National Prescription Round-up events in 2012. One occurred in April and the second in September. Between

these events and the drop box located in the police station, the Department took in approximately 130 pounds of pills, ointments and liquid medications. The drop box is available 24/7 to the community as a safe alternative to dispose of unwanted, unused and expired medications. It is located in the lobby of the Police Department.

All needles and sharps must be placed into the approved Bio-Hazard container located adjacent the drug drop box in the lobby. We can also accept needles and sharps in medically approved Bio-Hazard, sealed containers. We will not accept needles and sharps in homemade containers like coffee cans, milk containers or laundry detergent bottles.

- Noise Abatement Program

The Noise Abatement Program has worked efficiently for the last nine years. This program partners the Police Department with Williams College Campus Safety & Security, Williams College administration representatives, landlords who rent to off-campus students and the students themselves. The purpose of this collaborative is to make students aware of the quality of life issues within their neighborhoods and how they can help maintain them and still have a college related social life. Referred to as the “three strikes program” by some students, this project advises students about the consequences of repetitive police response to off campus housing and the consequences to tenants and property owners. This program is coordinated by Sgt. Thompson of the Police Department and Director of Security, David Boyer, of Williams College.

- Partnering with the Council on Aging (COA) to assist the seniors of the community with quality of life issues.

Through the partnership with the Council on Aging, special attention is focused on the senior citizens of Williamstown. This partnership focuses on quality of life issues, crime prevention measures and identity thefts and scams. One such initiative continued in 2012 included the purchase of numerous Lock Box units that are utilized to secure a spare key at an individual’s home. In the event that a person may be locked inside their residence and needs emergency care, responding officers and emergency personnel can access the key from the Lock Box and make entry without causing any damage to the residence.

- Intern Program

The Williamstown Police Department continues to welcome in students from area high schools and colleges that have visions of pursuing a career in criminal justice. The intern program allows the students to shadow both the patrol and communications section to observe the job first hand. In 2012, students interned from Southern Vermont College, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, and Questar III of Troy, NY.

### **Juvenile Resource Officer**

The Department continues to work closely with Mt. Greylock Regional High School, Williamstown Elementary School, and Pine Cobble School in both a supportive and educating role. This includes the teaching of DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) where 2012 saw the graduation of 14 students from the Pine Cobble School. Officer

Tania Hernandez also serves as a senior counselor for two weeks of summer ROPES (Respecting Other People; Encouraging Self Esteem) camp sponsored by the Williamstown, North Adams, Adams, Cheshire Police Departments, as well as the Town of Florida and the Berkshire County District Attorney's Office. During 2012, approximately 162 youths attended and completed the ROPES camps with 20 residing in Williamstown.

## **Court**

The Court Officer, Michael Ziemba works closely with the Northern Berkshire District Court and the Juvenile Court system to assist in the disposition of civil violations and the prosecution of criminal cases. Ziemba works with both courts on a daily basis submitting paperwork, reviewing probable cause statements and signing complaints for issue. All criminal charges must be reviewed with the Clerk Magistrate to ensure probable cause is established for each charge sought. Once the complaint is issued, it may be held at the Clerk Magistrates level for a specific length of time under certain strict conditions and later dismissed if all specific conditions are met. A first time offender charged for a non-violent crime is a candidate for this diversion type program. Other cases are forwarded to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution. Other court duties include monthly show-cause hearings determining responsibility involving civil motor vehicle infractions, along with the delivery of summonses to witnesses, victims and defendants. Detailed recording keeping and data entry into the Department's record keeping system are also important functions of the Court Officer.

## **Investigations**

The Town of Williamstown is a safe community that allows for people to enjoy an excellent quality of life to work and live. Unfortunately however, Williamstown is not immune from crimes or the persons that perpetrate them.

Sergeant Scott McGowan is responsible for handling the Department's investigations when incidents require uninterrupted attention. Sergeant McGowan continues to maintain certifications for specific investigations which are also critical for courtroom testimony and in some instances, required. Many of the incidents reported to the Williamstown Police Department throughout the year require this level of service. The attention that these felony cases require makes it difficult for a duty patrol officer to accomplish while handling the typical calls for service the Department receives on a daily basis.

In 2012, Sergeant McGowan handled a variety of incidents including one hundred ninety five (195) larceny incidents, nineteen (19) breaking & entering reports and four (4) rapes. 2012 also saw the advancement of many other cases through the criminal justice system.

Additionally in 2012, Sergeant McGowan testified at numerous Grand Jury hearings which resulted in criminal charges being forwarded. In one case, the Grand Jury indicted a male for one (1) count of Rape, while another case saw the Grand Jury returning indictments against a male for two (2) counts of Rape of a Child with Force.

At the time of this report, Sergeant McGowan has submitted further cases to the Berkshire County District Attorney's Office and is awaiting Grand Jury hearings to begin in 2013.

### **Berkshire County Drug Task Force**

Officer Shuan William is the Department's representative assigned to the Berkshire County Drug Task Force (BCDTF). The Task Force is comprised of officers from full-time Berkshire County Police Departments, in addition to Troopers from the Massachusetts State Police. These officers work vigorously throughout the Berkshire County to battle the distribution of illegal narcotics and the crimes associated with drug activities. Narcotic investigations are exceptionally challenging and can take months to complete, often placing officers in difficult and dangerous situations.

In March 2012, Officer William assisted Sgt. Scott McGowan on a substantial Breaking & Entering investigation. Officer William was able to obtain search warrants for not only one cell phone, but was able to obtain search warrants for all suspected person's cell phone records.

In April of 2012, Officer William and Inspector Richard Tracey of the United States Postal Service – Postal Inspectors, conducted an investigation regarding the shipping of Marijuana into Williamstown, through the USPS. After a brief investigation, the recipient of the parcel was identified. Subsequently a search warrant was executed on the package and a substantial amount of Marijuana was recovered. The recipient of the package was criminally charged. This case has pled out of court, and the package recipient has completed all aspects of their probation.

### **K-9 Program**

The Williamstown K-9 Unit, Officer Michael Ziemba and Blue, responded to twenty-nine (29) calls for service in and around Williamstown requiring tracks to be performed, including but not limited to: searches for lost or missing children and adults, or searches for persons wanted by law enforcement for crimes committed or for questioning.

The K-9 Unit also participated in nine (9) public service events which covered a range of topics from numerous informative presentations on the role and use of the K-9 to school children of varying ages, informative presentations and question and answer sessions, demonstrations at various local parades and block parties, and presentation of D.A.R.E. awards to students graduating from the program.

Training is also an ongoing process for the K-9 Unit which, on average, trains about 12 hours each week. Most training is done locally in different scenarios of varying communities, usually in North Adams, Williamstown or Lanesborough. Many times, training time is also spent with the Pittsfield Police Department and the Albany Police Department, both of which have larger K-9 Units and certified Police K-9 Master Trainers.

Blue's day-to-day care and expenses are the sole responsibility of K-9 Handler, Officer Mike Ziembra. Medical expenses are supported entirely by donations from the community.

In the fall of 2012, Canine Blue suffered a knee injury that required major surgery to repair. During this time, the Department received word of a family in Granby, MA that had a bloodhound puppy that they wished to donate to a police department to work as a service dog. Canine-Handler Officer Michael Ziembra and Pittsfield Police Canine Master Trainer Officer Dwayne Foisy put "Daisy" through a series of tests that revealed that she appeared to have great tracking instincts. The family was thrilled to donate her to Williamstown, where she has continued to excel in her tracking duties, becoming certified in January 2013. Blue has recovered fully from her surgery, and is enjoying a well-deserved retirement after 8+ years of service.

### **Traffic Enforcement**

Traffic enforcement is a significant portion of the department's policing duties. The town is comprised of approximately eighty-six (86) miles of roadways, with the major routes being Routes 2, 7, and 43. When officers are not answering calls or completing paperwork, they are conducting enforcement on all of these roadways. Specific traffic complaints are received almost daily at the Department. As cell phone technologies advance with improved reception, more motorists are calling in the improper driving behavior of other motorists. Officers are dispatched to these areas in an attempt to locate the subject motor vehicle. A second type of complaint is when a resident or residents in a specific neighborhood call to report speeding motor vehicles in a specific section of town. To assist in strategizing these complaints, the Department deploys the speed monitoring trailer to record the number of vehicles, speed, direction and time of day to allow for a more specific enforcement action.

In 2012, the department responded to one hundred seventy five (175) motor vehicle crashes. Most of these crashes were minor in nature and occurred in parking lots or during on street parking. From the more significant crashes, twenty-one persons reported being injured and sadly there was one (1) fatality as a result of a tractor trailer crash at the intersection of Cold Spring Road and the Taconic Trail. Our thoughts and prayers are with those involved.

<b>Traffic Activity Summary</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Total Motor Vehicle Crashes</b>	211	229	175
Fatalities	0	1	1
Personal Injury Accidents	25	36	21
Pedestrian Involved Accidents	0	5	2
<b>Total Traffic Violations Issued</b>	2565	2347	2881
Motor Vehicle Stops	2204	1943	2498
Motor Vehicle Criminal Violations	196	185	155
Motor Vehicle Civil Violations	369	355	313
Motor Vehicle Warnings	2000	1804	2413
Operating Under Influence (OUI) Alcohol/Drugs	9	9	10
Speeding	881	799	1144
Parking Tickets Issued	1583	1948	2411

### **Communications Section**

Our Communications Section of the Police Department is the heart and soul of the Department. These are the people behind the scenes, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, simultaneously performing a multitude of tasks and never getting the credit that they truly deserve. The Communications Section is a State of Massachusetts Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), monitoring eight (8) Emergency 911 lines, three (3) standard emergency lines, and four (4) business phone lines. The Communications Section dispatches for the Williamstown Police, Williamstown Fire, Village Ambulance, and the Williamstown Forest Warden as well as serving as the after-hours point of contact for both the Department of Public Works and the State Department of Transportation. The Communications Section also dispatches mutual aid requests for police, fire and EMS outside of Williamstown. Other responsibilities of the Communications Section are to monitor any persons held in either of the holding cells, as well as all public record requests, burglar alarm bylaw monitoring and billing, and administrative duties to the Chief of Police.

In 2012, the Communications Section logged 16,012 calls for service, not including the everyday general business calls that do not amount to a call for service.



## 2012 Calls for Service by Shift:

Shift	Calls
Days / 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.	8850
Evenings / 3 p.m. to 11 p.m.	4689
Nights / 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.	2473
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>16012</b>

CALL STATISTICS	2010	2011	2012
<b>Total Calls For Service</b>	14054	15745	16012
911 ABANDONED CALLS	57	77	74
911 TEST CALLS	64	82	73
911 WRONG NUMBER CALLS	37	51	77
911 HANG-UP CALLS	29	37	44
911 SILENT CALLS	2	17	11
911 OVERFLOW – NORTH ADAMS	9	10	7
911 OVERFLOW – ADAMS	25	3	16
ABANDONED MV	0	0	1
ALARM – BURGLAR	200	200	199
ALARM – OTHER	38	24	32
AMBULANCE CALL – WILLIAMSTOWN	1373	1467	1449
AMBULANCE CALL – HANCOCK	149	125	134
AMBULANCE CALL – MUTUAL AID	19	26	26
AMBULANCE CALLS – NEW ASHFORD	9	10	10
AMBULANCE CALLS – POWNAL	55	76	59
AMBULANCE TRANSFERS	978	1217	1203
ANIMAL CONTROL	458	297	307
ALARM PERMITS ISSUED	15	6	7
ALARM PERMIT RENEWALS	146	130	118
ARSON	1	0	0
ASSAULT	12	14	14
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – DPW	76	73	77
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – FIRE	95	101	94
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – MUNICIPAL	12	10	4
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	33	58	54
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – RMV	14	9	10
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – POLICE	105	116	98
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – UTILITY	41	62	52
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – WCS	34	44	26
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY – REPO	3	6	2
BREAKING & ENTRY	66	22	19
B.O.L.O.	70	69	88
BURN PERMIT	59	42	60
BUILDING CHECK	2862	3831	3706

<b>CALL STATISTICS</b>	2010	2011	2012
<b>Total Calls For Service</b>	14054	15745	16012
DISTURBANCE	80	94	67
DISABLED MV	122	144	122
DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE	56	28	37
ESCORT / TRANSPORT	11	6	18
FIRE DISPATCH – WILLIAMSTOWN	270	303	272
FIRE DISPATCH – MUTUAL AID	10	4	6
FINGERPRINTING	54	71	71
FOREST WARDEN DISPATCH	42	24	46
GENERAL INFO	93	175	95
ILLEGAL DUMPING	12	16	11
K9 REQUEST – WILLIAMSTOWN	1	1	13
K9 REQUESTS – OTHER AGENCY	11	12	16
KIDNAPPING	0	1	0
LARCENY	213	242	195
LICENSE TO CARRY	39	68	94
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION	27	23	25
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE	160	165	175
MISSING PERSON	15	11	18
MV LOCKOUT	157	158	130
MV CRASH	211	229	175
MV STOP	2204	1944	2498
NARCOTICS INVEST	43	42	32
NOISE COMPLAINT	84	67	53
PARKING COMPLAINT	44	58	48
PERSONNEL COMPLAINT	1	5	3
PROPERTY DAMAGE	18	19	11
ANNOYING PHONE CALLS	32	10	18
PARKING CHECKS	924	1472	1608
POWER OUTAGE	25	11	16
PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST	174	163	166
FOUND / LOST PROPERTY	140	156	139
PUBLIC SERVICE	53	80	116
PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT	31	29	33
RAPE	0	0	4
ROAD CONDITIONS	166	115	112
ROBBERY	0	0	1
SERVE RESTRAINING ORDER	16	13	22
SEXUAL ASSAULT	4	16	12
SUDDEN DEATH	6	6	6
SECTION 12	16	25	30
SEX OFFENSES	0	2	0
SHOPLIFTING	0	1	0
SUSPICIOUS MV	210	305	284
AUTO THEFT	1	0	2
SOLICITING	1	1	3

<b>CALL STATISTICS</b>	2010	2011	2012
<b>Total Calls For Service</b>	14054	15745	16012
SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION	0	4	3
SPEED TRAILER ASSIGNMENT	10	10	9
SYSTEM TROUBLE	37	46	59
SERVE SUMMONS	121	137	109
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	316	345	332
THREATS / HARRASSMENT	40	46	62
TRAFFIC CONTROL	84	88	46
TRAFFIC COMPLAINT	237	214	232
TRESPASS	28	27	33
UNWANTED GUEST	21	17	21
VANDALISM	45	31	28
VIOLATION RESTRAINING ORDER	7	8	1
SERVE WARRANT	6	9	10
WELL-BEING CHECK	94	75	95

## SELECTMEN

**David A. Rempell, Chairman**



The Board of Selectmen meets every second and fourth Monday of the month, dealing with many issues of importance to the Town. Although many of the duties of the Board may seem routine, such as renewing licenses, making appointments to various Town committees and boards, etc., the decisions made by the Board have a dramatic impact on our community. In addition, there are other important issues which come before the Board that have long-term consequences for our Town. I would like to highlight some of the major changes and issues which the Board of Selectmen have discussed during the past year and some of the items that are of importance to our community.

First of all, the composition of the Board remained the same during this past year. It has been my pleasure to continue to serve with Vice-Chair Jane Allen, Tom Costley, Tom Sheldon and Ron Turbin. We have now been together for five years.

The impact of Tropical Storm Irene has continued to be a focus for the Board. With the loss of more than 150 housing units, the need for affordable housing in our community has never been greater. Through the hard work of Town Manager Peter Fohlin, the Town is hoping to receive a federal hazard mitigation grant which will provide funding to help with the development of additional affordable housing units. Community discussion will take place as to exactly how the Town will use the funds.

With careful financial planning, the Town was able to level-fund the total amount of real estate taxes collected for fiscal year 2013; this represents a significant accomplishment in this period of time. It should be noted that services to our community have continued to be provided at a very high level.

The Board of Selectmen serves as the local licensing board for all alcoholic permits. As part of this important responsibility, the Board requested that the local police department coordinate four compliance checks each year. The compliance rate for 2012 was 95% for restaurants and package stores, compared to 89% in 2011. Letters of warning were sent to five establishments who failed the checks. These letters were sent after a hearing between the establishment and the Board.

I would like to thank Town employees for their dedicated service to the Town and all the volunteers who give their time and talents to serve on Town boards and committees. Without all of their service the Town could not function as smoothly as it does.

## **SIGN COMMISSION**

**Timothy Hamilton, Chairman**

The Town of Williamstown Sign Commission is tasked with administering the Code of the Town of Williamstown, Chapter 53, Signs (the Sign Bylaw), consistent with the character and appearance of the area for which the sign is requested. Signs may be of a permanent nature, (for new businesses, institutions or activities) or may be temporary for specific events or functions. Current Sign Commissioners are: Chair Timothy Hamilton, Anna Singleton, Stuart Armet, Mary Beebee, and Greg Hitchcock.

The Sign Inspector can issue any sign, which fully complies with the Sign Bylaw; any deviation from the bylaw requires Sign Commission approval. In granting Special Permits, the Commission has wide discretion in what will be allowed or modified in the application. The Sign Inspector is the enforcing authority under the bylaw. Fines may be assessed under the non-criminal disposition provisions of the Code of the Town of Williamstown.

### **The Sign Bylaw, in its introduction, states:**

A. The Williamstown envisioned under this chapter is one with major patterns of use and general appearance little changed from today, but with greater opportunities within the community for a broader range of diversity of citizens and businesses; a town not only undamaged by change but made better through it.

B. Economic growth appropriate to Williamstown's character is actively sought, not as an end to itself, but as a means of broadening the diversity of opportunity in Williamstown, in supporting a rich and diverse community life and population. There is

room enough for all the development, which realistically the town can expect to experience without the defacing of its special assets and places, including both natural and man-made features, mini vistas and historic monuments.

C. The basic form of Williamstown is that of a classic New England town, with a strong central village sharply contrasting with and benefiting from the openness of the surrounding lands. The present arrangement works well for almost everyone. It provides wonderful living possibilities within easy walk of both central services and open lands. It organizes development in an easily serviced way. It creates a visually rich and satisfying community character.

D. There is little doubt Williamstown residents intend the policies of the Sign Commission to enhance these qualities. Such conflicts within the community as the Sign Commission may encounter should be reconciled with this public vision in mind. It is instructed to use incentives and rewards wherever possible, as a way of implementing sign policy. However, the following guidelines are intended to be as clear and unambiguous as possible:

- (1) The primary function of on-premise signs is to index the environment to tell people where they can find what. Selling is a subordinate purpose.
  - (2) Signs should be expressive of the individual proprietor’s identity.
  - (3) Signs should be appropriate to the type of activity to which they pertain.
  - (4) Signs should be compatible with the visual character of the area surrounding them. Carved signs are compatible in all areas, and this chapter encourages their use.
  - (5) Signs should be legible in the circumstances in which they are seen.
- Using its discretion, consistent with the bylaw, the Commission seeks to follows these guidelines in rendering its decisions.

In 2012, the Commission or its Sign Inspector, Andrew Groff issued 98 sign permits.

**TOWN CLERK/BOARD OF REGISTRARS**

**Mary Courtney Kennedy, Town Clerk**  
**Robert A. Jones, Registrar**  
**Mark Windover, Registrar**  
**Kurt Gabel, Registrar**

**Dog Licenses Issued – 2012**

<b>Male</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Neutered Male</b>	<b>355</b>
<b>Spayed Female</b>	<b>379</b>
<b>Kennel License (4 dogs)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Kennel License (10 dogs)</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Net Value of License</b>	<b>\$4,260</b>
<b>Late Fees</b>	<b>\$ 220</b>
<b>Gross Value of License</b>	<b>\$4,480</b>

**Vital Records Recorded in 2012**

<b>Births</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Marriage Intentions</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Marriage Licenses</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Death</b>	<b>159</b>

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*May 8, 2013 Voting*

**Annual Town Election Results – May 8, 2012**

<u><b>OFFICE</b></u>	<b>PREC. 1</b>	<b>PREC. 2</b>	<b>PREC. 3</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>SELECTMEN</b>				0
BLANKS	3	2	8	13
THOMAS E. SHELDON	169	56	162	387
JUSTIN D. ADKINS	43	26	67	136
WRITE INS	0	0	2	2
TOTAL	215	84	239	<b>538</b>
<b>WMST. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ( 2 )</b>	<b>PREC. 1</b>	<b>PREC. 2</b>	<b>PREC. 3</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
BLANKS	92	38	85	215
THEODORE ANAGNOS	69	30	87	186
DARRYL LEE BROWN, JR.	47	21	47	115
CHRISTOPHER H. JONES	85	38	107	230
RICHARD J. SCULLIN	137	40	148	325
WRITE INS	0	1	4	5
TOTAL	430	168	478	<b>1076</b>
<b>LIBRARY TRUSTEE 3 YEARS</b>	<b>PREC. 1</b>	<b>PREC. 2</b>	<b>PREC. 3</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
BLANKS	45	25	44	114
M. GEOFFREY HEDDEN	170	59	195	424
WRITE INS	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	215	84	239	<b>538</b>
<b>PLANNING BOARD</b>	<b>PREC. 1</b>	<b>PREC. 2</b>	<b>PREC. 3</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
BLANKS	45	16	43	104
CHRIS WINTERS	161	64	194	419
WRITE INS	9	4	2	15
TOTAL	215	84	239	<b>538</b>
<b>NO. BERK VOCATION REG SCHOOL COMM</b>	<b>PREC. 1</b>	<b>PREC. 2</b>	<b>PREC. 3</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
BLANKS	32	16	27	75

THOMAS R. MAHAR  
 WRITE INS  
 TOTAL  
**HOUSING AUTHORITY FIVE YEARS**  
 BLANKS  
 DAVID L. MANGUN  
 WRITE INS  
 TOTAL  
**HOUSING AUTHORITY 3 YEARS**  
 BLANKS  
 JOAN SIMPSON BURNS  
 WRITE INS  
 TOTAL

183	68	212	463
0	0	0	0
215	84	239	<b>538</b>
<b><i>PREC. 1</i></b>	<b><i>PREC. 2</i></b>	<b><i>PREC. 3</i></b>	<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>
50	24	48	122
165	59	191	415
0	1	0	1
215	84	239	<b>538</b>
<b><i>PREC. 1</i></b>	<b><i>PREC. 2</i></b>	<b><i>PREC. 3</i></b>	<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>
68	27	65	160
141	51	171	363
6	6	3	15
215	84	239	<b>538</b>

The Annual Town Meeting was held on May 15, 2012, at which 419 registered voters checked in. Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting can be viewed on the Town's webpage at [www.williamstown.net](http://www.williamstown.net) under the Town Clerk's page.

## TOWN MANAGER

**Peter L. Fohlin**

Managing the town's finances while maintaining a high level of service continues to be a challenge. Net state local aid, at just over \$2 million, is lower than it was in 2001. Our school systems struggle under the same pressure. During much of the early 2000s taxation from new home construction filled the gap. In recent years New Growth has been in the neighborhood of \$100,000. It is unlikely to return to earlier levels three times higher. Significant revenues from the room occupancy tax and the meals tax have offset some of the loss. We have managed to maintain services and avoid Proposition 2½ overrides by constantly seeking out incremental savings in carbon fuels, electricity, and health insurance, and by not adding to our workforce.

Conservative fiscal management and tight financial controls have carried the Town through the recent economic downturn while maintaining the Town's fiscal health and service levels. Fiscal Year 2012 ended with unprecedented balances in the Unreserved Fund Balance ("free cash") and Stabilization Fund. The Massachusetts Department of Revenue certified the Unreserved Fund Balance at \$953,561 as of July 1. The Stabilization Fund stands at \$728,529. The balances in these two funds are looked at closely by bond rating agencies and potential investors when interest rates on the Town's long term borrowing are set.

The town's Aa2 bond rating is important to our ability to borrow money at the lowest possible cost. This will become important as the Town moves to address the need for a new police station, renovations and replacement of Mount Greylock Regional School District, and environmental compliance at Hoosac Water Quality District. In 2010 we were forced to withdraw \$150,000 from our stabilization fund to maintain services and balance the budget. Each year since, we have constructed conservative budgets and have repaid the stabilization fund in full to demonstrate financial discipline to Moody's

Investor Services. Williamstown is one of only three communities in the Berkshires to enjoy an Aa2 rating by Moody's.

The Town has two open lawsuits against it. One, filed by Charles Fox, is active in Land Court. The other, filed by Morgan MHP Mass, LLC (a/k/a Morgan Management-The Spruces) against the Town of Williamstown and Commonwealth of Massachusetts is dormant. Neither suit represents a significant legal or financial exposure for the town as no monetary damages are being sought.

We thought we had extricated ourselves last year from the legal skirmish on Bee Hill Road. Neighborhood residents had sued Charles Fox and the Planning Board over a proposed sub-division off Bee Hill Road. The Land Court remanded several issues back to the Planning Board, which the Board ruled on and returned to the Land Court. Mr. Fox subsequently appealed the Land Court's rulings and is proceeding against the Town. Legal fees over six years total \$46,478 and are ongoing.

Morgan sought strict enforcement of state building and health codes by local inspectors and relief from the state's manufactured housing community regulations at The Spruces immediately after Tropical Storm Irene. Legal expenses total \$25,795. The lawsuit was suspended by mutual agreement. We do not expect significant further activity as the Town and Morgan move toward the transfer of park ownership.

Superstorm Sandy threatened The Spruces in October 2012 and preparations were made to evacuate and shelter the remaining park residents. In contrast to TS-Irene which came right up the Connecticut River Valley, Sandy curved out to sea and we avoided any damage. In November we received assurances of a Natural Hazard Mitigation Grant award that would allow the Town to acquire The Spruces land with the obligation to return it to a natural state and several million dollars of grant funds with the obligation to find alternative housing for the residents. All this is to be done under the watchful eyes of FEMA, MEMA, and the Massachusetts Attorney General.

We continue to collaborate and cooperate with our neighbors in North and Central Berkshires on matters of mutual benefit. Clarksburg and Florida have joined Adams, North Adams, and Williamstown in sharing a Veterans Services Officer to better serve our veterans and save money for our taxpayers. The Hoosac Water Quality District continues to operate efficiently and economically to the benefit of North Adams and Williamstown ratepayers and the environment. Diligent pursuit of inflow and infiltration has reduced Williamstown's share of HWQD operating costs from over fifty percent to less than thirty percent. With North Adams taking the lead, Williamstown and seven other Berkshire communities will enter into an electric power aggregation agreement to purchase electricity for all participating residents at the best possible price. We will continue to seek mutually beneficial opportunities for collaboration with our neighbors.

Please visit the Town web site at [www.williamstown.net](http://www.williamstown.net). There you will find minutes of the Board of Selectmen's meetings and the Town Manager's twice-monthly Town Manager's Reports. Contact information for all departments, office hours, the schedule of committee meetings, and voter registration information are among the many things found there. You can also pay tax bills, water/sewer, and motor vehicle excise tax bills on-line around the clock every day by check or credit card. Subscribe to our bulletin in the lower left corner of the web site to receive announcements of timely interest.



Williamstown municipal government is truly a team effort. Williamstown is very fortunate to have a strong cadre of experienced professionals in every position from building maintenance to plow driver to accounting. These professionals appreciate the support of the residents and taxpayers. Thank you all for everything you do.

## **TRANSFER STATION**

**Chris Lemoine, Superintendent**

The Williamstown Transfer Station lost its most recognizable icon when station operator



Paul Langlois retired in November. Paul greeted everyone with a smile, made you feel welcome, and treated whoever utilized the transfer station with respect. Residence not only disposed of their trash, they wanted to see Paul. After 27 years of service to the Town, we hope he can enjoy the retirement he has earned.

***Paul Langlois***

The residents of Williamstown continue to demonstrate their consistency in the recycling of reusable material. The Town recycled 224 tons of paper, 85 tons of co-mingle (glass, cans and plastic) and 9 tons of electronics. Our total recycled volume was 318 tons, on par with the previous year total recycled volume of 329 tons. The total volume of MSW (municipal solid waste that cannot be recycled) for the year was 367 tons. This shows that the town's residents recycle nearly half of the waste that is produced.

The services provided at the transfer station are as follows:

- Disposal of trash, demolition, white goods (such as refrigerators, washers and dryers), wood, brush and tires.
- Recycling of mercury products, paper, plastic, cans, waste oil, wood chips.
- The collection of paint, electronics, dry batteries.

I take this opportunity to thank our Facilities Technician Kenny McAlpine for the great job he did building the new staircase and landing for the co-mingle recycling container. It has made the site so much safer and convenient for the residents.

Not much has changed since my report from last year, except a change on our (Waste ban compliance plan) which is a permit modification on clean gypsum board called sheet rock. This means we no longer except sheet rock. With that being said the economy is

still in the tank and the state has no new program that we have heard of. We were able to keep the transfer station rates level fund in 2012, which was a plus. The transfer station is still the place to meet neighbors doing the same thing each week disposing of there trash and recyclables.

The Transfer Station is opened from 7:30 AM until 3:30 PM Tuesday - Friday and Saturday from 7:00 AM until 3:00 PM. If you have any questions about recycling or how to dispose of something, please do not hesitate to contact us at 458-5159. We would be glad to assist you.

**TREASURER / COLLECTOR**  
**Janet Saddler, Treasurer / Finance Director**  
**STATEMENT OF DEBT**  
**JUNE 30, 2012**

<b>\$2.175 Million Bond-Issued Aug 15, 2001</b>									
Town	<b>Exempt</b>	5/19/92	1,800,00	1,800,00	Inside Limit	565,000	95,000	14,219	470,000
Garage			0	0					
Landfill Phase I		7/25/95	217,000	215,000	Outside Limit	70,000	15,000	1,669	55,000
Landfill Closing	<b>Exempt</b>	5/17/94	140,000	50,000	Inside Limit	0	0	0	0
Well # 1		11/15/09	892,000	892,000	Inside Limit	740,000	140,000	18,175	600,000
			3,049,000	2,957,000		1,375,000	250,000	34,063	1,125,000
			0	0		0			
<b>\$3.325 Million Bond-Issued Aug 15, 2001</b>									
Sewage System		5/23/89	145,000	75,700	Inside Limit	7,060	7,060	141	0
Cemetery Building		5/23/89	108,500	38,800	Inside Limit	0	0	0	0
School Remodeling		5/23/89	281,000	128,500	Inside Limit	0	0	0	0
Water Standpipe		6/18/91	3,804,000	1,289,100	Outside Limit	138,940	138,940	2,779	0
Water Mains		6/18/91	122,000	33,900	Outside Limit	0	0	0	0
Sewer Inflow & Infiltration		5/15/01	1,156,000	1,156,000	Inside Limit	520,750	68,480	21,318	452,270
Chapel Borrowing		3/30/99	200,000	132,800	Inside Limit	62,350	7,820	2,562	54,530
Sewer Main-Spring Street & Gale Road		5/18/99	267,000	257,000	Inside Limit	120,830	15,130	4,965	105,700
Water Main-Spring Street		5/18/99	219,000	213,200	Outside Limit	100,070	12,570	4,111	87,500
			6,302,500	3,325,000		950,000	250,000	35,875	700,000
<b>\$4.35 Million Bond-Issued May 1,2005</b>									
New School	<b>Exempt</b>	11/18/99	14,500,000	4,200,000	Inside Limit	2,940,000	210,000	119,595	2,730,000
Landfill Closure		5/14/00	4,200,000	150,000	Outside Limit	90,000	10,000	3,650	80,000
			18,700,000	4,350,000		3,030,000	220,000	123,245	2,810,000
<b>Total Long Term Debt</b>			28,051,500	12,316,000		5,355,000	720,000	193,183	4,635,000

# TREASURER'S RECEIPTS

## For the Year Ending; JUNE 30, 2012

Department	Description	Amount
<b><u>Tax and Excise</u></b>		
Treasurer-Collector	Personal Property	248,065.10
Treasurer-Collector	Real Estate Tax	14,313,829.33
Treasurer-Collector	Motor Vehicle Excise	595,959.24
Treasurer-Collector	Interest on Property Tax	39,562.48
Treasurer-Collector	Interest on MV Excise	2,655.99
Treasurer-Collector	Interest on Tax Liens	16,174.09
Treasurer-Collector	Payments in Lieu of Tax	49,257.18
Treasurer-Collector	Meals Tax	158,804.96
Treasurer-Collector	Hotel and Motel Tax	396,555.31
Treasurer-Collector	Community Preservation-State Match	53,826.00
Treasurer-Collector	Community Preservation Surcharge	211,972.86
Treasurer-Collector	Community Preservation Surcharge Interest	687.77
Total Tax and Excise		<u>16,087,350.31</u>
<b><u>Utility Charges</u></b>		
Sewer Department	Sewer Charges	1,151,895.26
Water Department	Water Charges	1,103,701.33
Landfill Department	Landfill Payments	20,133.76
Landfill Department	Landfill Stickers	69,511.00
Landfill Department	Landfill Bags	<u>67,272.50</u>
Total Utility Charges		<u>2,412,513.85</u>
<b><u>Other Charges for Services</u></b>		
Cemetery	Cemetery Interments	18,800.00
Police	Off-Duty Fees	136,663.19
School	Cafeteria Receipts	<u>66,905.23</u>
Total Charges for Services		<u>222,368.42</u>
<b><u>Fees</u></b>		
Assessor	Fees	7.50
Treasurer - Collector	Fees	47,143.03
Town Clerk	Fees	6,672.29
Conservation Commission	Fees	1,351.13
Conservation Commission	Wetlands Fees	817.50
Sign Commission	Fees	50.00
Planning Board	Fees	1,270.00
Zoning Board	Fees	1,970.00
Police Department	Fees	12,508.49
Police Department	Dispatch Services	51,382.50
Sealer of Weights	Fees	412.00
Building Inspector	Fees	13,144.65
School	Rental - Custodians	7,508.10
School	Tuition	88,071.71
Landfill Department	Fees	2,336.60
Sewer Department	Fees	6,831.00
Water Department	Fees	12,932.78

Cemetery Department	Perpetual Care	9,650.00
Health Department	Fees	17,663.78
Council on Aging	Fees	5,849.56
Library	Fees	6,545.17
Total Fees		<hr/> 294,117.79

#### **Licenses and Permits**

Selectmen	Licenses and Permits	1,413.00
Selectmen	Liquor Licenses	36,280.74
Town Clerk	Licenses and Permits	4,922.00
Sign Commission	Licenses and Permits	3,486.00
Police Department	Licenses and Permits	7,092.50
Building Inspector	Licenses and Permits	207,356.21
Gas Inspector	Licenses and Permits	4,615.00
Plumbing Inspector	Licenses and Permits	10,110.00
Wiring Inspector	Licenses and Permits	108,206.92
Health Department	Licenses and Permits	18,737.84
Total Licenses and Permits		<hr/> 402,220.21

#### **State Government - State Aid**

Treasurer-Collector	FEMA	81,971.20
Treasurer-Collector	Veterans Services	21,518.00
Treasurer-Collector	Snow and Ice	53,208.02
Treasurer-Collector	Abatement Reimbursement	13,501.00
Treasurer-Collector	State Owned Land	119,528.00
Treasurer-Collector	Chapter 70	895,366.00
Treasurer-Collector	Lottery	807,552.00
Treasurer-Collector	Federal Lunch Reimbursement	23,459.13
Treasurer-Collector	State Lunch Reimbursement	1,800.63
Treasurer-Collector	School Choice	179,076.00
Treasurer-Collector	Circuit Breaker	63,198.00
Treasurer-Collector	Urban Development Excise	26,814.00
Treasurer-Collector	Green Communities	71,000.00
Treasurer-Collector	Underage Alcohol Enforcement	3,876.82
Treasurer-Collector	Assistance to Firefighters	13,995.00
Treasurer-Collector	Council on Aging-CPR	500.00
Treasurer-Collector	Council on Aging-Senior Nutrition	525.00
Treasurer-Collector	Municipal Medicaid	16,906.61
Treasurer-Collector	Charter School	5,379.00
Total State Aid		<hr/> 2,399,174.41

#### **State Government - Grants**

Treasurer-Collector	SPED Program Improvement	4,705.00
Treasurer-Collector	DOE - Title I	68,737.00
Treasurer-Collector	School ARRA Grant	90,602.50
Treasurer-Collector	DOE - Title II Math Science	24,947.00
Treasurer-Collector	DOE - P.L. 94-412	131,570.00
Treasurer-Collector	DOE - Early Childhood Wee Grant	14,515.75
Treasurer-Collector	Early Literacy Grant	5,625.00
Treasurer-Collector	DOE - Quality Kindergarten Grant	28,130.00
Treasurer-Collector	E-911	4,894.91
Treasurer-Collector	Police-Drug Task Force	6,503.54
Treasurer-Collector	Police Highway Safety Grant	1,532.32
Treasurer-Collector	Polling Re-imbursement	387.00

Treasurer-Collector	Library Title LIG/MEG Grant	10,896.22
Treasurer-Collector	Emergency Management Grant	3,700.00
Treasurer-Collector	Council on Aging - Formula Grant	12,720.99
Treasurer-Collector	Race To The Top	9,541.00
Total State Grants		<u>419,008.23</u>

#### **Fines and Forfeits**

Commonwealth	Court Fines	18,765.00
Police Department	Parking Tickets	33,290.00
Total Fines and Forfeits		<u>52,055.00</u>

#### **Sale of Assets**

Cemetery	Sale of Lots	1,150.00
DPW	Sale of Fixed Assets	7,164.00
Total Sale of Assets		<u>8,314.00</u>

#### **Interest Income**

Treasurer-Collector	Investment Interest	43,190.69
Treasurer-Collector	Trust Interest	6,321.68
Total Interest Income		<u>49,512.37</u>

#### **Gifts and Contributions**

Police Department	Contribution - General	18,028.00
School	Adventures in Learning Gifts	3,589.24
School	Sunrise Spanish Gifts	420.00
School	School PTO Educational Materials	3,206.75
School	Library Books	1,267.71
School	Field Trips	1,650.96
School	5th and 6th Grade Fund	19,219.26
School	Teacher Salary	5,178.60
School	Outdoor Classroom	749.00
School	Music	5,304.76
Council on Aging	Donations & Fundraisers	5,667.00
Library	Operations Gifts	22,200.00
Library	Books	4,304.61
Town	K-9	500.00
Town/School	Health Coordinator	2,068.00
Total Gifts and Contributions		<u>93,353.89</u>

#### **Payroll and Insurance**

Payroll Deductions	Federal Withholding	780,364.40
Payroll Deductions	Medicare Withholding	216,062.04
Payroll Deductions	State Withholding	365,836.22
Payroll Deductions	Retirement Withholding	706,116.78
Payroll Deductions	Health Insurance	1,587,620.65
Payroll Deductions	Life Insurance	31,361.30
Payroll Deductions	Dental Insurance	86,585.12
Payroll Deductions	Other Withholdings	180,342.67
Total Payroll and Insurance		<u>3,954,289.18</u>

#### **Fund Transfers**

Transfers between Funds		199,800.44
Total Fund Transfers		<u>199,800.44</u>

**Miscellaneous**

Miscellaneous	Sherman Burbank Trust Distribution	17,208.89
Miscellaneous	Williamstown Scholarship Fund	2,681.73
Miscellaneous	Cemetery Perpetual Care Distribution	9,000.00
Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous Trust Contributions	70,506.60
Miscellaneous	Reimbursement for damages	13,302.56
Miscellaneous	Stabilization Distribution	25,000.00
Total Miscellaneous		<u>137,699.78</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<u><u>26,731,777.88</u></u>

**VETERANS SERVICES****Stephen Roy, Veteran's Agent**

The Williamstown Office of Veteran Services is directly responsible for providing veterans' benefits under Chapter 115 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Department of Veteran Affairs at the federal level. These important programs provide a great variety of resources and financial assistance to eligible veterans and their dependents. The veterans of our community who are disabled, homeless, unemployed or suffering from the trauma of war with nowhere else to turn can find relief in the services provided by the Office of Veteran Services.

Accurate bookkeeping and 100% approval of all submitted claims to the Department of Veteran Services (DVS) in Boston continues to be a priority in this time of financial insecurity our communities are facing. The Office of Veteran Services can assure full reimbursement to the Town of Williamstown under the guidelines of 108 CMR § 13.02 (3). Williamstown continues to see a steady increase in the number of claims filed and clients served; the associated costs to the community to pay these benefits escalates accordingly. Consequently the need for meticulous recordkeeping and guaranteed reimbursement by the Commonwealth to the City is imperative. In fiscal year 2012, Veterans Agent Stephen Roy processed \$66,538 in benefit claims without a single penny rejected by the Commonwealth - funding which would otherwise be a liability to the community. Many veterans have been saved from homelessness, hunger and despair by these funds.

With the drawdown in America's foreign engagements, many service members are coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan. While this is a wonderful, the unfortunate truth of the matter is America continues to recover from the recession and meaningful employment opportunities are extremely scarce. Worse, many soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines come home greatly challenged due to the horrific effect of war on the human psyche. The Office of Veteran Services assists a great number of veterans with filing claims through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This intimidating (and time consuming) process is extremely difficult to accomplish successfully; without assistance nearly all claims would otherwise be denied by the VA. We assist these folks in acquiring the correct documentation, proper completion, and submission to the appropriate entity. Other services provided include, but are not limited to, educational/employment assistance, dependency and indemnity compensation, alcohol/drug rehabilitation, housing assistance, referrals, and close contact with funeral homes and cemeteries to ensure all veterans' graves are properly honored. The Veterans' Office also serves as a depository

for hundreds of thousands of documents and important records of historic value to the sons and daughters of Williamstown in secure archives.

VSO Stephen Roy maintains a very dynamic and flexible schedule serving the veterans of not only the Town of Williamstown but the City of North Adams, Adams, Williamstown, Clarksburg and Florida. The Veterans' Agent often makes special appointments and house calls to the sick, bedridden or elderly who cannot easily make it to the Municipal Building to process documentation. The Williamstown Office of Veteran Services is staffed Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 – 3:30.

**WATER AND SEWER**  
**Edward Rondeau, Superintendent**

The Water Department is happy to report that as of September 2012, we have placed the new Well 1 in service to our ratepayers. The Well has been in the construction phase for one and a half years from drilling to completion of buildings, pumps and controls! The well has been running with great efficiency and no interruptions in service. The whole water system is being feed by this new source, jubilantly we report it utilizes only about eighty percent of it's capability to serve our daily water needs. Water quality from the new well is consistently good, as folks have come to expect it to be, and the well is much more efficient electrically, therefore reducing our carbon footprint!



**New building delivered in August of 2012, houses the well pump and controls**



**New chemical feed pumps tanks and associated controls located in Chlorination building**

The Department repaired 10 water breaks during the calendar year, which is a pretty ordinary count.

The Sewer Department continues its work towards reducing inflow and infiltration, therefore reducing our contribution to the wastewater plant, and further keeping sewer assessments in check to the ratepayers.

In the year that has passed the Sewer Department worked diligently to clean and video catalog all the sanitary sewer lines in the North Hoosac Road area prior to our Highway Departments project. The work was done to be sure that if there were any existing impairments in the piping or structures that we identified them and repaired them before the new road surface was put in place. We were also able to find any sources of unwanted surface water or contributors of ground water via sump pumps and floor drains, and work with the folks that owned them to redirect them to the appropriate place, the Town's storm drain system. Our continued mutual efforts with the ratepayers to reduce inflow and infiltration is paying off at the treatment plant, as our portion of the plant's assessment has fallen dramatically from near 50% to nearly 30%, since the start of our work.



**WILLIAMSTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Rose P. Ellis, Superintendent**

**Joelle Brookner, Principal**

**WILLIAMSTOWN-LANESBOROUGH SCHOOL UNION 71**

**Combined Student Enrollment:661 Faculty/Staff: 127.5**

School-year 2011-2012 marked the fourth successful year of the School Union 71 (SU 71) partnership between Williamstown Elementary School and the Lanesborough Elementary School, and, with the inclusion of Mount Greylock Regional School District, the second full year of the Williamstown- Lanesborough Public schools functioning as a Tri-District. As we move into our third year as a Tri-District of educators and learners, a powerful synergy is at work across the three schools that is gaining momentum. Although each school is unique, they share a common set of core values. At the heart of each school’s mission is our dedication to academic excellence, to nurturing cooperative and caring relationships, to respect for human differences, and to expanding our commitment to our community, both local and global.

***WILLIAMSTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT and STAFFING  
2011-2012***

**STUDENT ENROLLMENT**

YEAR	TOTALS	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
Ratio 11-12	416	1:15 29	1:16 65	1:16 48	1:15 46	1:19 56	1:19 57	1:20 59	1:19 56
Ratio 10-11	407	1:11 33	1:16 47	1:16 48	1:15 58	1:18 54	1:21 62	1:18 55	1:17 50
09-10	427	1:11 35	1:15 45	1:19 56	1:19 56	1:20 60	1:19 58	1:16 49	1:22 68
08-09	455	33	57	61	59	59	54	65	67
07-08	438	31	58	49	51	53	66	66	64

**EDUCATIONAL AND SUPPORT STAFFING (Full-Time Equivalents)**

<b>Grade-Level Teachers PK-6</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Specialists (Music, Art, Library , PE, Nurse and Technology)</b>	<b>7.4</b>
<b>Special Education Teachers And Professional Support Staff</b>	<b>8.3</b>
<b>Paraprofessionals</b>	<b>27.3</b>
<b>Custodians/Cafeteria</b>	<b>6.7</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73.7</b>
	<b>Staff</b>

## *NEW PRINCIPAL*

Joelle Brookner was appointed Principal on July 1, 2011. Ms. Brooker has been a part of the Williamstown Elementary School since 1992 as a classroom teacher and a school-wide math coordinator. Joelle's leadership will be a valuable resource and the school community is thrilled to have her in this new role.

## *HIGHLIGHTS 2011-012*

The school year began with the WES gym and cafeteria used as a community disaster relief center. Principal Brookner; cafeteria manager, Lisa Spencer; B&G manager, Tom D'Avella; and music teacher, Margot Sanger; did a tremendous job collaborating with Town officials and emergency staff. It was a true community effort. Governor Deval Patrick visited the WES shelter as part of his visit to observe the impact of Hurricane Irene on our area.

As WES approached its tenth birthday, technology coordinator, Tom Welch, was able to work with Superintendent Ellis, the business office, and Apple to upgrade all the school's technology hardware and bring the school to the next generation of computing. New iMacs were purchased for the classrooms and lower computer lab. New MacBooks were installed in the upper lab, and an iPad tablet station was purchased. Under Mr. Welch's guidance, eighteen teachers from all grades worked on a year-long independent study using the new technology to enhance and push the boundaries of their current teaching and communication with families.

The school garden at WES was alive and well under the expert "green thumb" of Linda Wagner. Linda, of Outside In Education, was back at Williamstown Elementary working with classroom teachers and children in a range of grades. During fall and spring you might see many hands in the soil on the west side of the school harvesting, mulching, weeding and planting. Work outside was guided by school and state curriculum, for instance the third graders planted a *three sisters* garden during their study of the New England Wampanoag. Vegetables harvested were weighed by children and shared in classrooms or used in recipes or the salad bar in the cafeteria. During the winter, Linda worked with Tracey Baker-White in the school's Science Lab to present lessons on seeds, plants, and soil.

## *WILLIAMSTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE*

School Committee members for the 2011-2012 school year included: Adam Filson, Chairperson, Margaret McComish, Vice-Chair, Valerie Hall, John Skavlem, and Jennifer Trainer Thompson--with Jennifer and Adam finishing up their terms at the end of the school year. WES is fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers advocating for our students and school community.

# WILLIAMSTOWN HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Nancy Burstein, Curator

## Highlights of the Year

A major effort in 2012, although as of yet invisible to the general public, was our expenditure of time and money to complete the digital cataloguing of our collection and the photographing of all items in preparation for making the collection accessible online. The hosting fee for three years is being paid for by a grant from the Fund for Williamstown, administered by the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. The collection should be accessible online by March.

## Exhibits

Our orientation exhibit *From Wilderness to Williamstown* continues to draw rave reviews from visitors.

*Williamstown in the Civil War*, curated by Dustin Griffin, focused on the stories of the 27<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts to “bring home how the war affected the people of one small country town in the Berkshires.” In conjunction with the exhibit, a private tour was given to the Town Manager and the Selectors, and a graveside ceremony was held in Eastlawn Cemetery, complete with a color guard and three- gun salute provided by the American Legion, to honor Williamstown’s Civil War Medal of Honor winner, Richard Welch.

*Williamstown in the Golden Age of Postcards*, curated by Gale Griffin, revealed what Williamstown looked like a century ago and provided a concise history of the production of postcards.

Our traveling panel exhibit was on display at the ’62 Center during the Williamstown Theater Festival season. Our “mini exhibits” have continued at the Williamstown Savings Bank and Town Hall with two historic photos from the collection at each site that change monthly. These exhibits are primarily designed to pique historical awareness and interest, and to bring people into the museum.

## Outreach and Public Programs

In addition to exhibits, public programs are another way we fulfill our mission of making town history accessible to the public. In 2012 our programs included two talks by Dustin Griffin on Williamstown soldiers in the Civil War, in conjunction with the winter special exhibit, *Williamstown in the Civil War; The 1896 House: From Barn to Bistro*, by Rita Watson and Sue Morrell; a talk on the history of the Spruces by Carl Westerdahl; *271+ Years of Williamstown Landscapes* by Hank Art; *Curator’s Tale: A History of the Clark Art Institute*, by Richard Rand; and *What if? Questions Posed by the Set of Founding Documents at the Chapin Library*, by Bob Volz. In addition to the programs offered at the museum, a slide show presentation leading into a discussion and sharing of memories was offered on site at Proprietors Fields.

Moon Over the Mountains, a fundraiser held at the ‘6 House Pub, featured our first ever Cabaret, graciously donated by Martha Williamson and Friends, and a Silent Auction, organized by Rita Watson. The event was tremendously popular, raised \$10,600, and introduced some new people to the museum’s work.

The museum's presence and raffle baskets at the Holiday Farmers Markets in November and December provided exposure to a different audience.

### **Education**

In what has come to be a standard part of the curriculum, our Traveling Trunk of period clothing and artifacts spent time at Pine Cobble School, where it served as the core of a hands-on history exploration for second graders. Visits by the Williamstown Elementary School third grade classes followed, enhanced by the creativity of Dick Steege, a retired elementary school teacher, who serves as our Education Coordinator. His assistance in planning and implementing the program for all these visits and in developing and providing in-class activities as background before the students' visit to the museum is invaluable. He continues to work as a liaison between the museum and teachers in an attempt to increase the use of material from our collection in the classroom.

### **Research Assistance**

Our resources are utilized not only for education and public programs, but also in responding to the many inquiries for genealogical assistance, house history research, student research, professional research, information for our own exhibits and programs, as well as for programs and visits arranged by request for other community groups. We responded to approximately 24 requests in 2012, and our primary genealogy researcher, David Primmer, spends between one and four hours on each.

### **Nuts and Bolts**

Maintaining our collection of historical resources is a time-consuming operation. In 2012 we received 58 separate gifts from 44 donors, 14 of them from first-time donors. Most of the gifts consisted of multiple items, increasing our collection by more than 320 separate items that required sorting, evaluating, cataloguing, and processing. Our two part-time staff members work approximately 28 hours a week. In 2012 this was supplemented by a total of 280 hours provided by interns, and an additional 195 intern hours devoted specifically to the online cataloguing project. Our ongoing work and many special projects were possible only with more than 1,000 additional hours generously donated by our faithful volunteers. Beyond assisting with educational outreach and genealogical research, volunteer docents fill 2-hour slots most mornings and afternoons at the museum, compile the newsletter, organize our monthly programs and special events, develop exhibits, and manage membership and publicity. We couldn't function without them!

### **A Broad Constituency**

While we would expect our resources to serve primarily a local constituency, many people from elsewhere who have family ties to Williamstown visit, as do an increasing number of tourists. The majority of visitors are from the geographic area including Williamstown, Pittsfield, Adams, and Bennington, but others come from eastern Massachusetts and neighboring New York and Connecticut. Still others come from further afield. In 2012 our small museum's guestbook contained signatures from 24 states and 6 foreign countries. Our most famous visitor of the year was Dr. Ruth Westheimer, who was in the Berkshires in July in conjunction with the play at Barrington Stage Company based upon her life, *Dr. Ruth, All the Way*. Her comments on Williamstown Historical Museum? "Superb! Enjoyable and Educational!!

## **Kudos for WHM**

We must be doing something right! Among comments from visitors to our exhibits:

“Wonderful Museum. You should be proud”

“Appreciated assistance to locate family information and gravesite”

“Thank you. You brought me closer to my grandfather.”

The museum’s appeal for children was mentioned by both adults,

“Fabulous for my 2-year-old grandkids”

“Wonderfully educational for children”

And by the children themselves

“I like putting on the clothes and writing”

“Very cool!”

## **WILLIAMSTOWN HOUSING AUTHORITY**

**Betty Ann LaBombard, Executive Director**

**35 Adams Road**

**Williamstown, Massachusetts 01267**

**Tel: 413 458-8282 Fax: 413 458-9698**

The Williamstown Housing Authority administers a total of 150 units of subsidized housing, both rental assistance and conventional units. This includes: 30 elderly apartments, Meadowvale, on Adams Road, 97 units of federally subsidized Section 8 rental assistance, 8 units of family housing at the corner of Cole Avenue and Stetson Road, 8 units for people with special needs on Adams Road, and 7 state funded rental vouchers. Our office is located at Meadowvale, 35 Adams Road.

We are presently accepting applications for elderly and family housing. However, our Section 8 Federally funded rental assistance program waiting list is closed at the present time, due to the number of applicants.

The members of the Williamstown Housing Authority are: Mark Reinhardt - Chairman and State Appointee, Richard Hamblin - Vice Chairman, Peter Mehlin, Joan Burns and David Mangun. The Executive Director is Betty Ann Labombard.

## **WILLIAMSTOWN YOUTH CENTER**

**David Rempell, Executive Director Michael Williams, Assistant Director**

**Diane Sullivan, Assistant Director**



This has been an historic year for the Williamstown Youth Center. On November 5, 2012 the Youth Center moved into its new facility at 66 School Street. Before we moved into the facility, we conducted a “ribbon-cutting” ceremony and hosted numerous tours. On Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> we

facilitated an “official opening” ceremony. Needless to say, we are greatly appreciative of the support provided by the community that made this project possible. The children love the new building.

Our signature program, the After-School Program, is benefiting from the new facility. Children now have an opportunity to pursue and develop new interests in a facility that provides the space and resources which are necessary. We prepared for the move by hiring additional staff for the After-School Program, in anticipation of increased enrollment. This prediction has proven to be very accurate, as our participation has increased by approximately 40% during the first couple of months.

The After-School Program operates every school day until 5:30 p.m. With our increased enrollment, children are now grouped by age and sign up for a variety of activities during different segments of the afternoon. Each group has a “group leader”, a staff person who monitors the schedule for each



child in his/her group. There are many options available for children. These include homework assistance in our learning center, which also includes a comfortable library for reading; strategic board games; game room with ping pong, pool, foosball, etc.; art room, with a variety of activities offered on a daily basis; movement room where children get to experience different types of dance, and a media center for technology activities. In addition, we now have dedicated space for our younger and older (teenage) participants. The new gym provides enough space for gross-motor activities during the After-School Program, as well as appropriate space for some of our basketball teams for practice.

The Youth Center continues to offer full-day programs during school vacation weeks and during the summer. Our eight week summer camp includes many trips to local cultural and recreational venues. Our new facility will make our full-day programs much more attractive and enjoyable.

During the school year the Youth Center facilitates programs in many sports. Many members of our community (parents, college and high school students, and college coaches) volunteer their time to provide instruction. Offerings include instruction in swimming, skating, hockey, basketball, track and field, soccer, etc. The Youth Center’s Sports Philosophy states that the most important objectives for our young athletes are to have fun, improve playing skills, be a responsible team member, and learn to love to play.



The annual Snowfest celebration was held on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are grateful to Williams College for the use of its skating rink and field house. In addition, many athletes at Williams and students from Mt. Greylock Regional High School provided assistance. As always, Snowfest provided a vast assortment of activities for children and families.

Proceeds from the celebration support the operating budget of the Youth Center and allows us to continue to provide scholarship assistance so that all children can participate in Youth Center activities.

The Board of Directors works extremely hard on overseeing the operations of the Youth Center. Many Board members have served for a number of terms, desiring to see the building project completed. Members of the Board include Paul Jennings (President), Dave Armet (Vice President), Russ Howard (Treasurer), Marc McDermott (Secretary), Ronadh Cox, John Hogan, Duffy Judge, Aaron Jordan, Christi Kelsey, Kim Kuster, Madeline Levy, John McAlister, and Tom Welch.

As noted above, the Williamstown Youth Center is extremely appreciative of the support of the community; we could not provide the services that we do without it. Our generous donors, volunteer coaches, etc. help make this a better community for children. We receive major support from the Town of Williamstown and Williamstown Community Chest. The Williamstown Elementary School and Williams College provide space for many of our programs. Thank you for your support.

## **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

**Andrew Hoar, Chairman**



The Zoning Board of Appeals is comprised of 5 members and 3 alternate members. Serving on the Board in 2012 were Andrew Hoar, Chairman, John Holden, David Levine, Ryan Neathawk, and Leigh Short. Alternate members are Hugh Daley, David Ranzer, and Larry Wright.

The Board meets on the third Thursday of every month to hear and decide petitions arising from the application off the Williamstown Zoning Bylaws.

These petitions fall into four categories:

**Variances** – seek relief from the requirements of the Bylaws due to particular circumstances that are unique to a property.

**Special Permits** – see permission for uses or changes allowed under the Bylaws under certain conditions.

**Administrative Appeals** – seek relief from a decision made by the Zoning Enforcement Officer.

**Comprehensive Permits** – seek permission to circumvent certain local zoning laws to construct affordable housing under the authority of Massachusetts General Law Ch. 40B.

All applications for any of these four types of permits require the Board to place advertisements in the local newspaper, generally *The Advocate*, and notify all abutters of the subject property of the time and date of the public hearing an application by USPS mail. The process ensures that all neighbors of a proposed project have a chance to voice any concerns regarding a proposal.

2012 was a slower than usual year for the Zoning Board with 14 requests for hearings. 11 Requests for Special Permits and 1 Variance were approved. 2 Requests were withdrawn by the applicants. The most common Special Permit in 2012, 6 applications, were approved for extensions to pre-existing non-conforming single family homes, there were also 2 new Home Occupations permitted. Perhaps the most controversial topic to come before the Zoning Board in 2012, a proposal for a motorcycle festival including primitive camping off Hopper Road, was withdrawn by the applicant at the hearing. Currently as of April 2013, the Board has nearly exceeded the number of permits applied for in 2012. Hopefully this is a sign of exciting things to come in Williamstown and the Zoning Board is looking forward to a busier 2013.



# Williamstown Fire District



**2012**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

*The Williamstown Fire District is an independent governmental entity created by a 1912 act of the Legislature. The District is governed by a board of three commissioners elected at the District's annual meeting customarily on the fourth Tuesday in May at which time the District also sets its budget and its tax levy for the following year. All registered voters of Williamstown are entitled to attend the annual meeting at the District firehouse on Water Street.*

## **PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE**

**Edward B. Briggs**  
**John J. Nottley**  
**Edward M. McGowan**

**J. Paul Dube, Clerk and Treasurer**  
**Craig A. Pedercini, Chief**  
**34 Water Street**  
**(413) 458-8113**

An organization is formed of members – its members form its image. Who are the members of the Williamstown Fire District who leave their homes at 3 A.M. on a sub-zero night or a family picnic at 3 P.M. on a sultry afternoon to face a fire? For those who wonder, we depart from our formal format to name names. Currently on the roster are your neighbors Samuel T. Amdur, Patrick H. Banks, Robert E. Briggs, Daniel F. Bryant, Michael F. Daniels (currently on military leave), Richard F. Daniels, Karlan K. Eberhardt, Gary L. Fuls, John V. Hoover, Ryan C. Housman, Ashley A. Jolin, Kevin A. Jolin, Gregory V. King, John J. Manley, Peter E. Niemeyer, Michael E. Noyes, Kevin M. O'Mara, Craig A. Pedercini, Sean P. Peltier, Michael A. Steele, Paul D. Thompson, Cory L. Thurston and Matthew C. Wilson.

Those well acquainted with the Department undoubtedly noticed the absence of four names as well as the addition of one new force member, Ashley A. Jolin, sister of Kevin Jolin, a Williamstown resident and senior at Mount Greylock Regional High School, who will hopefully serve for many years. On the negative side, Robert W. Briggs has relocated to Connecticut and is therefore no longer a local firefighter. Also, Evalynn M. Rosado and Erik K. Levinsohn have left the area after graduating from Williams College in June. The Departments appreciate their service and devotion.

Sadly and regretfully it is noted that the name of Hermon "Skip" Allsop, Jr. is forever removed from the company roster. Skip left this world on February 15, 2012. A member of the Gale Hose Company for over 30 years and the Town's Forest Warden for 20 years Skip's dedication, knowledge, and experience are greatly missed. During the year 2012, the above-named 23 members of the Company expended 4,328 hours responding to calls. Equally impressive are the thousands of hours devoted to schooling and preparing. The Massachusetts Fire Academy provided classroom training in Protective Breathing/Search and Rescue, Fire Officer I, Rural Water Supply, Incident

Safety Officer, Command Control Gas Emergencies, and Fire Prevention Officer. In-house training in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation/Automated External Defibrillation and First Responder/First Aid continue to be given and regular drills are held throughout the year. Courses were also provided in Emergency Driving, Rail Safety, Hazardous Materials, Apartment House Fires, and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Field Level Maintenance.

Four firefighters, namely Gary L. Fuls, Patrick H. Banks, Sean P. Peltier, and John V. Hoover each received scholarships of \$4,500 from the Massachusetts Call Volunteer Firefighters Association. This organization's objective is to promote the well being of Call/Volunteer firefighters. It provides scholarships to individuals who volunteer to serve as call firefighters and/or emergency medical technicians. In existence for little more than 20 years, the group has grown to more than 3400 members, representing over 130 fire organizations, insuring recognition of the vital contributions made by Call/Volunteer firefighters in Massachusetts.

The District responded to 228 calls in the year 2012. Of these, two were listed as structure fires. In the order of occurrence, the first of import was on January 23, at 40 Oblong Road, where a roof fire was reported. The fire appears to have originated in a wall adjacent to a wood stove, the latter having been used for some 20 years. Fortunately the owner of the home was present when the fire erupted, and both the call of notification and response were almost immediate. The fire was knocked down and brought under control within an hour. This accidentally- caused fire was deemed a "save" by the Department with no loss of life or injury, and minor damage to the structure.

The second such fire occurred April 17 on Adams Road in the Brien Center which provides housing for special needs persons. A fire originating in a clothes dryer activated a sprinkler which contained the fire in the dryer itself. In this particular case, the dryer was well maintained, having been serviced in the prior week at which time the heating element was replaced; It is thought the two thermocouples may have malfunctioned. Again very little damage occurred due to the sprinkler; positive pressure ventilation was required to remove a small trace of smoke in the building.

The remainder of the calls were in answer to activated fire alarms which account for almost 50% of those received, smoke odors and /or good intent calls, carbon monoxide investigations, motor vehicle accidents, natural and /or propane gas calls, and a variety of other categories. One call requiring the efforts of a search and rescue team occurred on June 1 in the vicinity of the Mount Prospect, Money Brook and Hopper Trails which lead around the the Mount Greylock Mountain Range. The lost hiker was fortunate to be carrying a cell phone enabling the Lanesboro Fire Department and the State Police to obtain her GPS coordinates resulting in the location and discovery of the hiker who was uninjured and had merely wandered off the trail. Rescue time was less than 3 hours. Chief Pedercini conducted regular comprehensive inspections of all public and private schools, restaurants, motels, inns, theaters, and nursing homes. Inspections of fire alarms and sprinkler systems were performed in all structures built or remodeled during the year. 252 permits were issued for Smoke/CO Detectors, Smoke/CO Installations, LPG, Torch, Tank Removals, Oil Burners, Oil Line Replacement, Tank Truck Inspections, Hood Suppression, Floor Refinishing, Fire Protection Systems, Fireworks and Fuel tank Storage.

As readers of this report are aware, the search for a site for the proposed new fire station continues. A desirable location near the center of town, must be large enough to accommodate such a facility. The Prudential Committee assisted by the Engineers and the Maguire Group have found a location that meets its requirements, the Lehovec property on Main Street. The District’s Attorney is in negotiations with the attorney of the estate of the late Kurt Lehovec. The District hopes to have a Purchase and Sale agreement early in 2013.

In the meantime, the current quarters must be maintained. Unfortunately this required the replacement of the 20 year-old roof before additional damage was incurred by the deck and interior walls. Structural repair to the brick and mortar of the front right corner of the station was also required. And it was deemed necessary to replace the Chief’s 9-year old four-wheel drive vehicle, which had gone 85 thousand miles.

Elected officers of the Williamstown Fire District include J. Paul Dube as Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer of the District. His term expires in 2013. Elected Prudential Committee members and term expirations are Edward B. Briggs, 2013, John J. Notsley, 2014, and Edward M. McGowan, 2015.

Appointed officers are Chief Craig A. Pedercini, First Assistant Engineer Robert E. Briggs, Second Assistant Engineer Michael E. Noyes, Third Assistant Engineer Richard F. Daniels, and Fourth Assistant Engineer Daniel J. Bryant

REPORT OF THE PRUDENTIAL COMITEE TREASURER		
FISCAL 2012: JULY 1, 2011 – JUNE 30, 2012		
JULY 1, 2011 - BALANCE ON HAND IN TREASURY		\$580,328.54
RECEIPTS:		
Town of Williamstown (Taxes collected)	454,159.11	
Williams College	28,286.21	
Inspection Fees	6,285.00	
Bank North (checking)	25.60	
Adams Community Bank (Money Market)	2,552.90	
TD Bank (Money Market)	297.09	
Recovery of Prior Years Unclaimed Checks	801.16	
FEMA (Hurricane Irene)	3922.96	
Donations	2565.6	\$498,895.63
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		\$1,079,224.17

EXPENDITURES:		
Street Lighting	76,184.91	
Water Rents	1,650.00	
Heat, Light, Power	5,750.31	
Pay of Firemen	53,650.79	
Insurance	51,738.75	
Pay Roll Taxes	5,729.58	
Communications	5,907.02	
Dispatch Services	51,382.50	
Salaries	83,622.96	
Services & Supplies	8,000.00	
Education & Training	10,781.08	
Maintenance & Operation	48,336.90	
Berkshire County Retirement	27,126.00	
Audit	8,000.00	
Legal	140.00	
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	438,000.80	
Article 6, Stabilization	39,000.00	
Site Cost	8,732.00	
Feasibility Study	9,697.00	\$495,429.80
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June 30, 2012, BALANCE ON HAND IN TREASURY		\$583,794.37
Stabilization Fund as of July 1, 2011	285,331.30	
Additions	39,000.00	
Interest	1,292.47	
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Balance as of June 30, 2012		\$325,623.77